

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON FACULTY COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

The Faculty Council on Student Affairs met at 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, **January 9, 2001**, in 36 Gerberding Hall. Chair Nanci Murphy presided.

Welcome and Introduction of FCSA members – Chair Nanci Murphy

Chair Nanci Murphy welcomed new FCSA members, who introduced themselves and identified their disciplines and departments, as did the rest of the council. Guests Mary Coney, Chair of the Faculty Senate, Jasmin Weaver, ASUW President, and Gordem Kuterdem, GPSS President, also were introduced.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of November 21, 2000 were approved as written.

Appointment of FCSA representative to the Service and Activities Fee Committee (SAFC)

FCSA member Albert Black volunteered to represent FCSA on the Service and Activities Fee Committee (SAFC). This important committee supports several programs of vital interest to UW students, and has a significant pool of money (in the millions of dollars each year). Hard decisions must be made each Spring about the distribution of this money. Most of this committee's work is carried out in Winter and Spring Quarters. Godfrey, Hatlen and Murphy all suggested this is one of the most interesting committees on which to serve.

Mary Coney, Chair, Faculty Senate

Coney thanked FCSA members for serving on what she considers one of the most important of the faculty councils. She spoke briefly about issues she thought the council might find worth its while to address.

An Admissions Task Force is rethinking the question, in the post-affirmative action era: Who should be admitted to the University of Washington? What kind of university do we want to be? Related to this is the issue of "campus climate": positive and negative incidents that occur on the campus. Coney noted that President McCormick has shown a genuine commitment to enhancement of diversity at UW in the six years he has been here. She further noted that after a CED proposal – one that required students to take 5 credits in CED-designated courses – failed to pass the Faculty Senate in 1995, a Class "C" resolution was passed that asked academic units to review their curricula in order that greater course content related to diversity topics might be added. FCAS (Academic Standards) was entrusted to monitor this effort. The administration and faculty governance have been studying new ways to enhance diversity at UW, and progress is being made. Though FCAS and SCMFA (the Special Committee on Minority Faculty Affairs) have been involved with this issue, FCSA may also wish to address it.

Coney also suggested that the council may wish to look at the debates about different ways of structuring the University engaging forums throughout the campus. These debates concern, among other issues: the quarter vs. the semester system; Distance Learning issues (there is now a Distance Learning Task Force co-chaired by FCAS Chair Doug Wadden and FCEO [Educational Outreach] Chair Roger Simpson); the division of the University into smaller colleges; and the notion of identity (what kind of identity does the University want to project, both inside and outside the campus?, and how can its identity be positively shaped and adapted – toward the goal of a greater communal sense – in the light of its being a decidedly urban university?).

Jasmin Weaver: ASUW President

Weaver said a major ASUW priority is to work to see that tuition remains affordable. (As both Weaver and GPSS President Gordem Kuterdem pointed out, tuition can be raised for reasons not easily defensible,

such as making a university appear more prestigious by having higher tuition than other schools.) With the legislature now in session in Olympia, this issue has particular urgency.

Maintaining and enhancing diversity at UW continues to be an ASUW priority. Weaver said students will be working this year with departments on curriculum transformation. Towards that same end, a committee appointed by President McCormick is putting together several options that would achieve ethnic studies objectives.

Weaver said the ASUW wants to conduct its own review of the University Initiatives Fund program. The Faculty Senate and the President's Office are conducting a joint review of the UIF: the 1% tax per biennium on all departments and units at the University, including administrative units, to create the fund for new initiatives for which all units may compete. Coney said it is important to keep in mind that the UIF is a permanent allocation of money. The joint review is interested in discerning and assessing the overall effect of the program: What are its costs and benefits? Where is it taking the University, and is that a desirable direction in which to go? Coney said everyone in the University community should have the opportunity to voice their response to these questions.

A major question concerning the UIF is whether or not certain sectors of the campus, particularly the health sciences and medical and professional disciplines, are dominating the program at the expense of smaller, more Humanities-related disciplines. A graduate student has been hired to conduct a survey of faculty, staff and administration; they will be asked their assessment of the overall program, what they like and do not like about it to this point. The report based upon the survey will be completed in March 2001. Weaver said the ASUW is disappointed in not being represented on the main committee overseeing the joint review, and may conduct its own survey. As the UIF significantly affects students at UW, the ASUW believes it should take an active role in the assessment of the program.

Weaver said the ASUW is very desirous to change the starting date of Winter Quarter from January 2nd to January 3rd. Students were only able to move back into their dorms on January 2nd and thus are seriously disadvantaged in having to do so the day before Winter Quarter begins.

As for student life on campus, Weaver said the ASUW has long wanted to have a student radio station at UW, but has never had, and does not now have, the funding to make this possible. She said new campus activities are being pursued; one that students are excited about is a concert this coming Spring in Husky Stadium. But many proposed student-sponsored events in the HUB cannot be held because student groups cannot afford the rent of the facilities in the HUB. She said the irony of the Student Union Building not being available as a venue for student-sponsored events is not lost on the University's undergraduate students.

Parking is another thorny issue for undergraduate students at UW, as it is for graduate students and the rest of the campus community.

TA unionization is a serious concern for the ASUW, which is pleased by the progress made thus far in this issue.

Weaver said improving the food services on campus is a continuing priority of the ASUW. She said the food overall is generally considered poor by most undergraduates, and the food services at several other campuses with which she is familiar are considerably superior to those available at UW.

Regarding "campus climate," Weaver said students are working well with University Police, and now have a good relationship with Chief Vicky Peltzer, who has strengthened the role of the University Security

Advisory Board. Accordingly, the incidents involving maltreatment of African American and other minority students by campus police have significantly diminished.

Nonetheless, Weaver added, minority students at UW are not included in the curriculum transformation as they ought to be. Many minority students still do not feel welcome on the campus.

Gorkem Kuterdem: GPSS President

Kuterdem addressed several campus issues important to GPSS, among them childcare, community building, promoting diversity, promoting better departmental conditions, graduate student labor issues, working to ensure shared governance, mentoring, and faculty relations. He also addressed the legislative issues of tuition, enabling legislation, funds for diversity outreach, and childcare.

As for childcare, Kuterdem said there simply is not enough of it available. A long-anticipated new child care center still has not materialized. Kuterdem said GPSS would like to see the faculty join the graduate students in their effort to bring this about.

Kuterdem said funding, manpower, and leadership are needed to better promote diversity at UW. He said President McCormick has been helpful with funding, but if funding does not continue, and perhaps increase, it will be difficult to sustain and enhance diversity. "Greater advocacy of diversity is needed on this campus," said Kuterdem. The faculty and students are doing their part, he noted, but they must do more. He said the question of "merit" must be addressed: a new admissions policy with a redefinition of the concept of merit must be advocated.

Weaver said the ASUW also urges the faculty to keep an open mind on the issue of "merit" and the admissions process. As she stressed, "It's one of the few issues that faculty control greatly" at the University, and an issue on which faculty need to have an active dialogue with students. She corroborated Kuterdem's assertion that there is untenable (if unintended) discrimination against African American and other minority students in the current admissions policy due to the use of the SAT and the GPA as the most weighted factors in admissions, and that "there is little correlation between admissions tests and academic performance at the University." There is, in other words, no correlation between how well one does on admissions tests and how well one does academically. And students with particular backgrounds are more likely to do well on admissions tests than are students with a different social and cultural background.

With respect to graduate student labor issues, Kuterdem said "the process could have been better," but GSEAC/UAW is pleased to this point. Action, however, is needed in Olympia; if the legislature does not act favorably, any apparent progress will have come to naught. Kuterdem said the support of the faculty, and the Faculty Senate, is greatly appreciated. Coney also pointed out that graduate students have more support from the faculty this year they did last year, especially concerning the issue of enabling legislation.

A perplexing issue to graduate students is that of mentoring. There is a marked deficiency of good mentoring at UW, Kuterdem noted. Graduate and Professional students are in particular need of improved mentoring. GPSS is working with CIDR on this issue.

Kuterdem said tuition will be a large issue in the legislative session in Olympia. He stressed the importance of developing a plan for equitable, predictable tuition increases. "We must try to keep them at a reasonable level," he urged. "Students will be discouraged from entering, say, public interest areas; they will not be able to afford to do so."

Weaver, Kuterdem and ASUW representative Summer Slater all agreed that Distance Learning is not a delivery mode that undergraduate and graduate students are encouraging at UW at the expense of traditional forms of on-campus learning. As Kuterdem expressed it, "Whenever you increase Distance

Learning, you take the ‘campus’ out of ‘campus life’.” And it is precisely “campus life” – the sense of a genuine University community – that students feel so fervently is lacking at UW. Supplanting on-campus, face-to-face, interactive courses at the University with Distance Learning would, in the eyes of students who are seeking a full communal life, both in and out of the classroom, amount to a serious diminution of the fulfillment of their dream. For all those who are embarked on their professional careers, or who simply cannot come to the campus, Distance Learning fulfills a very different goal. But, as Slater has articulated so well to the Faculty Council on Academic Standards, for students who come to UW for an interactive educational and communal experience, Distance Learning is detrimental, not fundamental, to what it is that they are seeking here.

Carlyle encouraged Weaver and Kuterdem, and anyone else from the ASUW and GPSS, to offer suggestions to FCSA whenever they like as to what faculty can do to assist them in their efforts to make the campus a better community, and to make possible programs and events that presently are not possible, or that are rarely possible. For instance, Carlyle said it would be helpful to have figures on the kinds of rents being asked for specific venues in the HUB, and to know if some of those venues are vacant at times when students might be allowed to use them, if they were not being used by anyone else.

Voting status for Professional Staff Organization (PSO) representative on FCSA

PSO representative Bruce Bennett asked why it is that PSO representatives are not accorded voting status in faculty councils, while Association of Librarians at UW (ALUW) representatives and Faculty Research representatives are accorded voting status. (Faculty councils are given the discretion to have their councils vote on whether PSO and Faculty Research representatives shall have voting status on their councils.) The ruling on this issue can change from one academic year to another; it is reached in the first Senate Executive Committee Meeting at the outset of Autumn Quarter. Coney will check into this issue further – especially, into Bennett’s question about PSO representatives – and let the council know what she finds out. She did say, however, that one helpful gesture would be for a council chair to address this question at the SEC meeting referred to: the meeting at which this decision is reached for the upcoming academic year.

Black suggested the council may want to look into a possible revision of the description of the council’s responsibilities as prescribed in the University Handbook.

Next meeting

The next FCSA meeting is set for Tuesday, February 6, 2001, at 8:30 a.m., in 36 Gerberding Hall.

Brian Taylor
Recorder

PRESENT: *Professors* Murphy (chair), Black, Carlyle, Murphy, Nelson and Williams;
Ex officio members Bennett, Godfrey, Hatlen, Herwig, Lee and Slater;
Guests GPSS President Gordem Kuterdem; ASUW Jasmin Weaver; Mary Coney,
Chair, Faculty Senate.

ABSENT: *Professor* O’Neill;
ex officio members Baker and Feetham.