

## **UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON FACULTY COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS**

The Faculty Council on Student Affairs met at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, **January 12, 2005**, in 36 Gerberding Hall. Chair Jeffrey Schwartz presided.

### **Welcome and Introductions – Jeffrey Schwartz, Chair**

Schwartz welcomed the council's guests, and asked council members and guests to introduce themselves, and to identify their academic departments or administrative units, or, in the case of Molly Seaman, her individual sport (Gymnastics) within the Athletic Department.

### **Approval of minutes**

The minutes of November 10, 2004 were approved as written.

### **Announcements – Jeffrey Schwartz**

- 1) Schwartz referred the council to the proposal that the UW had submitted to build, on campus, a DHHS/NIH biosafety level-3 Regional Biocontainment Laboratory (RBL) to work on Category A, B and C bioterrorism agents and diseases. These categories include everything from anthrax to viral hemorrhagic fevers (which includes such viruses as Ebola). Faculty Senate Chair Ross Heath, at the January 10, 2005 Senate Executive Committee Meeting, said: "This proposal raises a number of important questions of significance to the Faculty Senate and its constituent bodies that deserve serious consideration. These questions relate to such topics as decisions on campus land use, security, probability and consequences of releases, emergency response, institutional control, and political/PR concerns." Schwartz said Heath was particularly upset that the proposal was submitted without discussion in the University community. The provost issued an apology at the SEC meeting, and admitted that the proposal should have been discussed with the University community. He said that discussion will take place, as well as a discussion with the University's neighbors.
- 2) Schwartz said there are Faculty Senate openings: Lea Vaughn, Secretary of the Faculty, is completing her sixth year in this traditionally five-year position, and a new Secretary of the Faculty will be in place by Autumn Quarter 2005. Also, a new deputy legislative faculty representative is being sought. Gail Stygall is the current legislative faculty representative.
- 3) Schwartz gave Stygall a copy of the November 10, 2004 FCSA minutes – which contains a lengthy discussion of the relationship between the University and its immediate neighbors north of 45<sup>th</sup> Street – when Stygall told Schwartz that this had become a concern in Olympia. Stygall expressed her appreciation of the council's efforts on this issue.
- 4) Schwartz said the Faculty Senate, at its Meeting on December 2, 2004, passed the FCSA Class "C" Resolution supporting the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics Reform.

### **ASUW Update: Garrett Parks, ASUW representative**

#### Course Fees for Students

Parks reminded the council that, in the November 10, 2004 FCSA meeting, he mentioned that he had met with Vice Provost George Bridges of Undergraduate Education, and that progress had been made on the issue of course fees for students. He said a new User Fee Approval Policy (approved by the Provost and the Vice President for Academic Affairs by authority of Executive Order No. 4) is being circulated. He said student course fees "are used for additional materials and certain educational experiences that are not directly a part of in-class instruction. Examples include field trips and special technology.

"This new policy says that students must be involved in any process in which new student course fees are being considered," said Parks. He said a data base is being created in which all documents pertaining to student course fees "will be accessible to everyone." The data base will be "a mechanism for an agreement

process between students and administration should there be confusion about course fees.” There will also be course fee reviews “at regular intervals.”

Parks said, “Students feel that a great compromise has occurred in the creation of the new course fee policy. The new policy will be implemented in Autumn Quarter 2005. Parks pointed out that most departments have their own student groups to participate in specific instances involving course fee policy, as in other departmental policy matters. Asked how the course fee process works, Parks said a professor sends an application to his dean; the dean approves it if it is under \$50, and if it is over \$50, the provost needs to approve it.

Parks said of the new policy, “Students think it’s a good document: transparent and student-friendly.” Pace said, “I’d recommend an ASUW-appointed committee instead of a department-based committee.” Kravas suggested a good flow chart would be very useful. Parks agreed, and said he would see that a flow chart is developed. “It would make it a lot easier to understand,” he noted. Parks added: “There are no current fees that would be changed by the new policy. It only applies to new course fees.” He stressed that students do not oppose course fees; they simply want “accessible information” about the fees, and about any process in which fees are being considered.

#### Commuter Union Task Force

Parks said the Commuter Union Task Force has been proactively seeking ways to enhance the quality of commuter students’ lives at the University of Washington. The task force met with Gus Kravas to discuss issues and needs of commuter students on campus. The ASUW Senate passed a resolution to have regular meetings discussing these issues and needs; the participants will be the ASUW president, the Director of Community Relations, three Student Union senators, and four at-large commuter students.

#### ASUW Senate

The ASUW Senate endorsed a new contract that would allow John Marini, a senior in Business Administration, to produce the graduation announcements for all graduating ASUW members. “This is just our student opinion, however,” Parks emphasized. “Student Affairs makes the actual decision. Our opinion carries no formal weight. But we wanted to show a little bit of student anti-corporate rebellion.” He noted that several companies are bidding for the contract.

#### Tuition-Setting Authority

Parks said, “The student body opposes local tuition-setting authority because the regents are not elected officials, and because the state legislature could then easily ‘pass the buck’, and regents would have excuses. There are no good checks and balances. The student body believes there needs to be a balance between state funding and tuition-setting.” Parks said an editorial in today’s DAILY critical of the student body’s stance “contains several factual inaccuracies.” It also contains “false accusations”, he said. “It’s not the case that we’re too ‘idealistic’, or too ‘unrealistic’ ”, he stressed. “But our quality of education is going down, especially vis-à-vis the education being offered by our peer institutions.” Parks again pointed out that students are not against a raise in tuition per se. “But the University needs to provide a better quality of education.” Pace said, “We’re on the same side, ultimately; faculty and students want the same thing.” Parks said he appreciated Pace’s observation, and wanted the council to know that “students support performance agreements”.

#### **Discussion on Athletic Department’s Student Athlete Questionnaire – Dave Burton, Associate Athletic Director for Sports Medicine and Student Sports Service**

FCSA member Paul Wood introduced Dave Burton, Associate Director for Sports Medicine and Student Sports Service. Wood has been working with Burton on a student athlete questionnaire. Burton distributed the “2004 Athlete Exit Survey: Summary and Analysis”. The survey gathers feedback from students (who are exiting the athletic program) about their experiences at the University of Washington as a student

athlete. This information will be used by the Athletic Department to identify potential areas of improvement as identified by the students, to examine student perceptions of gender equity, and to provide ongoing information relevant to the NCAA certification process. The AD is gathering this information through in-person interviews with exiting student athletes, and anonymous written surveys. Of the 78 student athletes who exhausted their eligibility in 2004, only 27% completed the survey. For this reason, the survey's results "should be considered cautiously".

Burton said there are three principle components of the Student Athlete Questionnaire: academic integrity, student welfare, and student regulations. "Finances are not looked at in the Questionnaire, because the NCAA requires twice-yearly audits," Burton told the council. "But over-commercialization *is* being looked at." He said the Athletic Department "is anxious to go through the recertification process. We did an exit survey, and a survey of freshmen expectations." He noted that a standing committee on student welfare issues meets monthly.

As for the Student Athlete Exit Survey, Burton said the NCAA mandates that it be conducted. There is, however, a difficulty in getting many athletes to complete the survey. "Former Athletic Director Barbara Hedges was concerned about this procedure," said Burton. "We've improved our data on the survey. And we also do a 'subjective interview' to accompany the 'objective' survey."

Burton said student athletes gave the Athletic Department "high marks" in the survey. He did identify two "problematic areas": career development (an area that has been enhanced) and nutritional counseling, an area that is being markedly improved at present. Yet he observed that "even these two areas received high marks" from the students. The area of marketing of programs (publicity) received "negative responses, because we promote programs that bring in revenue [much more than programs that are not remunerative]. As for equity of gender-related facilities, Burton said a significant number of student athletes felt it wasn't equitable, yet the equipment is identical. "So it's a perception issue," said Burton.

Burton asked for questions from the council. Pace said he finds much of the talk about "compliance issues" to be "disturbing". "Compliance is not always in the best interest of the student athlete," he suggested. "For example, a disproportionate number of students in football have a particular curriculum quite unlike that of students in other athletic programs. Thus, compliance is not the end-all in helping student athletes. These are deficiencies." Burton replied: "We've taken steps in that direction [redressing this skewed curriculum]." But as for directing student athletes into particular academic programs, he said, "I can't address that. We don't seek to diminish the academic value of any academic discipline."

Robenolt [Interim Director of Student Athlete Academic Services] said, "Some student athletes are under-prepared, but that's a real minority of student athletes. And it must be kept in mind that we've had a lot of changes in the Athletic Department's administration. We've moving to the center of University academic life, and student issues. We've asked for help in remedial classes, but have been told that those resources aren't there. Our graduation rates are in line with the general student population." Pace responded: "But students in football, basketball, and baseball don't do as well as your other student athletes. You thus paint a 'rosier' picture than is actually the case." Robenolt stated that the football graduation rates are usually very close to the graduation rates of other male students on campus, but agreed that graduation rates do not paint a complete picture."

McKinstry asked, "Are there enhancements in student athletes' time in class? I was astounded, dealing with this. What can the campus do to help this?" Burton said, "Institutional policies to help this have been put in place: an adjustment of required hours for student athletes in participation during finals week and other key times of the schedule. The PAC 10 has addressed this with scheduling to minimize hours away from student athletes' academic commitment. Coaches are responsible to make travel scheduling." Robenolt said, "Some professors will say, 'I don't want student athletes in my class if they are traveling for

their sport and going to miss classes.’ Football players miss very little class. Basketball players tend to miss Thursday and Friday every other week during Winter Quarter.”

Molly Seaman, President, WSAAC (Washington Student-Athlete Advisory Council), and a member of the UW Gymnastics Team, said, “Overall, in Gymnastics we’ve had the highest team GPA. And student athletes actually do better in their traveling season than at other times.” Seaman pointed out that traveling, for UW athletic teams, is official University business. And she said most student athletes are responsible, and the fact that they do even better in their academic work while traveling in their sports proves that point. She noted that only 20 hours of athletic participation are required per week by the NCAA. “We don’t go over the 20 hours a week,” she noted, “though we do spend a lot of time in training. But we choose to put in whatever time we do, in our individual training.”

Wood said, “We see [in ROTC] excellent discipline in student athletes. We need young people with this quality.” Fearn-Banks said, “We’d like to see more student athletes in Communication.” Morales said there are “missed opportunities at the University of Washington. Minority Affairs could work with the Athletic Department much more than it does. We can help with student welfare.” Burton said, “We’re interested in working with the Office of Minority Affairs (OMA). A big push will be made to have ICA (Intercollegiate Athletics) move in that direction.” Lewis asked about student stipends for student athletes. Robenolt replied, “A full scholarship (tuition, books, and board) falls short of covering the cost of attendance.” She believes that it is about \$3,000 short of covering the full cost, but this estimate does not include current statistics. The cost of travel from the University to the student athlete’s home – during breaks – will now be included. She noted that some student athletes will not have to travel at all, and others will have to travel great distances, to go home. Burton said, “Most all women student athletes consider their scholarship to be adequate; about one-quarter of men athletes do not consider their scholarship to be adequate.”

Schwartz said to Burton and Robenolt, “We want to continue to work with you. Can student advisers be included in the survey-taking?” Burton said, “We wanted to have the students be as comfortable with the person interviewing them as possible, so we didn’t have student advisers participating in the actual interviews. But we’re constantly trying to improve the quality of the survey.” Schwartz said, “But the student advisers need to learn about what the student athletes express in the survey. That needs to happen.” Burton concurred with Schwartz on this point.

As for pressure that student athletes might feel to try to take the least demanding courses, Seaman said, “Student athletes *can* choose whatever academic studies they want to. The UW is very good in this regard, and students don’t tell others to take classes because they’re easier. No real pressure is applied there that I have seen, or that I have heard of from other student athletes.” Parks said, “It’s not fair to make this a referendum on student athletes; they don’t seek easier classes any more than other students do.”

#### **Next meeting**

The next FCSA meeting is set for Wednesday, February 9, 2005, at 10:30 a.m., in 36 Gerberding Hall.

Brian Taylor

Recorder

**PRESENT:** *Professors* Schwartz (chair), Fearn-Banks, Pace, Stoelinga and Wood;  
*Ex officio members* Gething, Kravas, Lewis, McKinstry, Morales, Parks and Robenolt.  
*Guests* Dave Burton, Associate Athletic Director for Sports Medicine and Student Sports Services; Molly Seaman, President, WSAAC (Washington Student-Athlete Advisory Council), and a member of the UW Gymnastics Team.

**ABSENT:** *Professors* Almgren, Brock and Fridley;  
*Ex officio members* Hatlen and Miller-Murray.

