

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

The Faculty Council on Student Affairs met at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, **March 12, 2003**, in 36 Gerberding Hall. Co-chairs Jeffrey Schwartz and Kathleen Fearn-Banks presided.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of February 12, 2003 were approved as written.

Communication between students, faculty and administration

Schwartz said communication between students, faculty and administration will be discussed at the next FCSA meeting, and that David Moore-Reeploeg, Student Regent, and Cammie Croft, ASUW representative, will participate in, and bring student perspectives to, that discussion.

Athletics at the University of Washington: Invited guests: Stanley Chernicoff, Director, Student Athlete Academic Services; and Sean Almeida, a junior in Communication

Schwartz said he sees certain problems with the Athletics program at the University, and thought it would be helpful for the council to revisit this issue after having heard from Stanley Chernicoff, Director, Student Athlete Academic Services, Intercollegiate Athletics, at the December 17, 2002 FCSA meeting.

Schwartz suggested several “positives” and “negatives” in the UW Athletics program. Among the positives:

- The program helps build a sense of community.
- The program provides an outlet for expression.
- The program helps bring other students together.
- The program brings donations to academic programs.
- The program is economically self-sufficient.
- Athletic coaches can be important role models.
- The program helps maintain a diverse community interest.

Among the negatives:

- Many student athletes are not integrated in the community.
- Athletics and academics compete with one another in these students’ lives.
- Athletic programs are becoming more expensive (what if the football program ceased to make money?).
- Commercialization of athletics at universities is on the increase.
- Athletic coaches can be bad models for student athletes.
- Athletic programs can be prone to abuse.

Schwartz noted that there have been several recent national scandals in athletic programs at universities: at St. Bonaventure, Villanova, Fresno State, and the University of Georgia, to name but four institutions. Year after year, Schwartz noted, more problems present themselves with respect to athletic programs at universities and colleges across the country.

Regulations at universities are put in place to try to minimize abuses in athletic programs. But the programs are dealing with tremendous pressure to win games, particularly in high-profile programs such as football and basketball. Also, there are questions as to whether the regulations, in some instances, are perhaps overly harsh: too hard on the young and often immature students..

Lewis said, “My concentration [in the Office of Student Financial Aid, of which she is Director] is on the financial end. But in terms of positives, the \$4 million in scholarship support given to student athletes each year must be mentioned.”

Student Regent David Moore-Reeploeg said, “It lets some students come here who couldn’t otherwise. I have been friends with student athletes, and those who are football or basketball players have all said to me, ‘Our coaches are paid to win.’ But the emphasis on winning can corrode the student athletes’ educational priorities. There needs to be less emphasis on winning alone.”

Kravas said, “For those who participate, they do so in a high performance environment. It’s hard to find this in other organizations. A lot of organizations just go through the motions. But this is a plus.” Kravas posed the downside with a question: “Do we create unrealistic expectations? Student athletes can feel larger than life. And we contribute to that distortion, especially in some sports such as football and basketball. Whereas someone in crew or some other sport – such as swimming – is more balanced and properly focused in his dual life as student and athlete. We make heroes out of some student athletes, and that is to no one’s advantage.”

Moore-Reeploeg said, “And these student athletes [who are lionized] become isolated. They withdraw somewhat. Many never go to upper campus except for class.”

Fearn-Banks asked, “Do they get any counseling on the value of an education?” Kravas said, “I think they *do* get some advising. Position coaches and others are supposed to help them out with advice.” Fearn-Banks said, “I mean, advice from *former* student athletes who have been out in the world. These people *need* these degrees for survival in many ways, for their life ahead. They need to understand what it is to live properly.”

Kravas said, “I’d guess that our student athletes have busier schedules than most students. They are actually living time-managed lives, but not necessarily *self*-managed lives; they are forced to lead tightly scheduled lives.” It was noted that some student athletes who do not finish their academic programs – say, athletes who turn professional and leave prior to their senior year – come back after their professional career to finish their degree.

Kravas said, “The culture seems to have gotten out of hand. This situation has been created across the whole of Division IA. The envelope has been pushed to a kind of brinkmanship. Head football coach Joe Paterno of Penn State University has had a model program for student athletes. Virtually all his student athletes graduate before leaving the university, and those who don’t most often return and complete their degrees later. A scandal in a Paterno-led program is all but unimaginable. That should be our model.”

Fearn-Banks said, “We should have such a coach, and such a program.” Herwig said, “Yes, I’m from Pennsylvania, and all I heard about was Joe Paterno. He’s given millions of dollars of his own money to the university.” Moore-Reeploeg said, “95% of student athletes *don’t* have learning disabilities, but they’re treated as if they’re *not* able to learn. It seems like professional teams are helping rookies adapt to life better than the universities are.”

Schwartz said, “At the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meeting, Athletic Director Barbara Hedges talked about salaries, and received a tepid response from the faculty. Amazingly, Hedges expressed no concern about problems in UW Athletics.” Herwig noted that “student athletes get no money. The pro’s should put money into university athletic programs: universities are de facto farm teams for the pro’s as it is. I don’t think universities *need* high-profile athletic teams. Look at Cal Tech and the Ivy League schools. There should be no scholarships for athletes, just need-based money. But it won’t happen.”

Fearn-Banks said, “Some student athletes – from poorer neighborhoods in cities such as Los Angeles – don’t even have money to take a girl out on a date; so they become involved in drugs, or whatever else.” Kravas said, “Back to our current situation: I know Interim President Huntsman feels strongly that a higher standard should be applied to those who lead young people.”

Schwartz said, “Aside from expressing concern, can we do something [as a council]?” One thing the council agreed upon was the desirability of having a representative from UW Athletics on the council.

Schwartz drew the council’s attention to the “Outline Charter for the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics – for discussion by coalition members (March 2003).” The Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) is a group advocating for reform in intercollegiate athletics, created by and representative of faculty senate leaders at Bowl Championship Series conference schools.

The Coalition’s “purpose is to articulate a broad national faculty voice in support of reform efforts, to contribute ideas towards a successful long-term strategy for reform, and to work with other groups committed to ensuring that athletics enhances rather than undermines the academic mission. The expectation at the outset is for an initial period of several years of high Coalition activity, leading towards an adoption of an acceptable comprehensive program of staged reform by the NCAA or by some alternative emerging structure, followed by a diminishing role tracking the success of the adopted program.”

“So far,” said Schwartz, “the other PAC-10 schools *have* someone on the Coalition. This should be brought to the attention of the faculty.”

Kravas said, “With respect to fan department, it was terrible all over the country, not just at the Apple Cup in Pullman. We must do what *we* can to avoid this.” Schwartz asked, “How do we frame this? How do we make faculty aware of this?” Moore-Reeploeg said, “We must think of ways to be proactive in suggesting better alternatives.” Herwig said, “This University’s Athletic department is unusual: It is separate from the rest of the University. It receives no state funding, and no student fees. Our interest should be with the student athletes.”

Kravas said, “What *are* the expectations of the coaches and Athletic Director? What standards *are* meant to be upheld? I was embarrassed as a University employee by the Neuheisel incident.”

Schwartz said, “The focus should be on how the program affects the students.” Schwartz suggested asking Rob Aronson [Faculty Athletic Representative, Intercollegiate Athletics] to recommend a representative for this council. Schwartz reminded the council that “this all started with [head basketball coach] Bobby Knight at Indiana [University].” Knight’s outlandish and abusive behavior resulted in his being fired.

Moore-Reeploeg said, “We could e-mail before April 28 and have our issues set out by then.” Schwartz said he could ask Stanley Chernicoff to come to the April 28 meeting.

MBNA credit card concerns

Moore-Reeploeg said, “Some students were concerned about the potential agreement with MBNA and the UW Alumni Association that would give MBNA limited advertising rights to UW students (three letters a year to all students except freshmen, and several on-campus solicitations in Red Square, HUB Lawn, etc.) in exchange for \$300,000 a year for seven years. Some students felt it was unethical for the University to further ‘privatize’ itself and ‘sell out’ for corporate dollars. They also felt it was an invasion of privacy. Other students felt it was not a concern for them if they received three letters a year. And if they wanted a

credit card they would get one anyway, whether it was UWAA sponsored or not. They also felt that MBNA had agreed to low introductory credit lines, competitive interest rates, and credit management seminars. Thus, going with MBNA might be better than [going with] a lot of other companies anyway. The ASUW Senate voted in favor of the UWAA doing the deal with MBNA. Two days later, the ASUW Board of Directors voted against the potential deal.”

Ethnic Studies and the “diversity requirement”

Moore-Reeploeg also said that students are concerned about the low level of awareness of diversity issues both in curricula campus-wide and in fora and other discussions outside the classroom. He would be interested to hear any comments that council members might have.

Next meeting

The next FCSA meeting is set for Monday, April 28, 2003, at 2:30 p.m., in 36 Gerberding Hall.

Brian Taylor
Recorder

PRESENT: *Professors* Schwartz (co-chair) and Fearn-Banks (co-chair), Herwig;
Ex officio members Kravas, Lewis and Moore-Reeploeg.

ABSENT: *Professors* Fridley and Karmy-Jones;
ex officio members Feetham, Hatlen, McKinstry and Morales.