

University Of Washington
Faculty Council on Multicultural Affairs
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., May 23, 2012
36 Gerberding Hall

Meeting Synopsis:

- 1) Call to Order
 - 2) Approval of minutes from the February 22nd FCMA meeting
 - 3) Presentation regarding the Undergraduate Diversity Requirement
 - 4) Update on Class A Legislation to add Diversity language into the Faculty Code
 - 5) Discussion of next year's activities
 - 6) Adjournment
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1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair David Takeuchi at 3:35 p.m.

2. Approval of minutes from the February 22nd FCMA meeting

Minutes from this meeting were deferred due to lack of quorum.

3. Presentation regarding the Undergraduate Diversity Requirement

The background of the Undergraduate Diversity Requirement was briefly described, and Takeuchi introduced Shange Purnell from the Student Diversity Coalition. Purnell informed that FCAS' Subcommittee on Admissions and Graduation refused to pass legislation for the proposed requirement to the Senate Executive Committee (SEC), and requested that revisions be made to the proposal. The Coalition expressed surprise at the tone of the meeting, which it considered intimidating.

This proposal addressed concerns of past attempts to pass similar legislature: such as inclusion of service and volunteer work and decreasing the requirement from two courses to one. Additionally, the definition of diversity was broadened, adopted from the Diversity Minor.¹ Subcommittee members expressed concerns that this proposal was too "one-sided," "negative" and opposed inclusion of the 6th clause² of the Policy Statement for the requirement. Purnell cautioned that past efforts for similar requirements were jeopardized by being "watered down," leading to abandonment from supporters.

Students did follow some recommendations, such as changing language to accommodate students taking two, two or three credit courses, and considering the impact on community college transfers (though the majority of community colleges already have such requirements in place). The Subcommittee then refused to pass the proposal as written to the SEC, suggesting further revisions, but the Coalition was concerned that these compromises may be too great.

¹ <http://depts.washington.edu/divminor/requirements3.html>

² To investigate contemporary society and how institutions like education, law, government, religion, science, health, military and others contribute to the inequitable distribution of power and privilege in society."

The following options were discussed by FCMA:

- FCMA bring proposed legislation to the Senate Executive Committee
- ASUW representative could request an update from FCAS regarding the proposal
- Work between FCMA and FCAS to make a compromise, and legislation move forward

The Coalition still hopes to move forward with the proposal with minimal changes, if any. Purnell announced that the Coalition will form a task force, as suggested by Provost Ana Mari Cauce who expressed support for the requirement as drafted. This task force will consist of faculty and students to perform outreach and discuss the proposal, and present a plan of best action to the Provost on December 1. It was suggested that FCMA work in tandem with this group. The Coalition noted its limitation from proposing such legislation, and frustration with faculty's lack of confidence in their proposal and its rigor.

Concerns were expressed that if FCMA does not support the students, that the proposal would fall into limbo. Council members suggested working with FCAS to develop a compromise, and to consult should the students not be pleased with the results of this process. Evan Smith, who is the student representative for FCAS could request for an update from FCAS regarding this. FCMA will vote to consider this activity its top priority, and will keep the Coalition informed of efforts taken.

4. Update on Class A Legislation to add Diversity language into the Faculty Code

Takeuchi informed that the Class A Legislation to add Diversity language into the Promotion and Tenure guidelines in the Faculty Code has proceeded to an all faculty vote. Faculty members have seen communications via email. To pass, this needs a majority of the voting faculty, or two-thirds of those who vote. Voting ends on June 7th at 5:00 p.m.

5. Discussion of next year's activities

Takeuchi requested to know if there were additional items for the next year for FCMA, other than support for the student diversity requirement. Freistadt mentioned that FCWA is drafting memos on mentoring and is requesting help in authoring such memos. Also discussed was investigating the impact of rising tuition in public universities and access for minority students.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Takeuchi at 5:01 p.m.

Notes by Jay Freistadt, Faculty Council Support Analyst. jayf@u.washington.edu

Present: **Faculty:** Takeuchi (Chair), Barria, Wilgerodt, Chapman
 President's Designee: Fraga
 Ex-Officio Reps: Lobo
 Guests: Shange Purnell, Helen Fillmore, Norma Rodriguez

Absent: **Faculty:** Yang, Flores, Ginorio, Harris, Reyes
 Ex-Officio Reps: Lillard, Rodriguez