

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS
MONDAY, April 14, 2008, 3:30-5:00 p.m.
142 Gerberding

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Approval of minutes
2. Update on spring faculty of color reception—Luis Fraga
3. Meet with Pat Dobel, Faculty Athletic Representative, Kim Durand, Associate Athletic Director for Student Development, Intercollegiate Athletics, and Emile Pitre, Associate Vice President, Office of Minority Affairs on questions about student athletes
4. Meet with Juan Guerra, Associate Dean Go-Map, Graduate School on Morehouse College partnership with UW.

1. Approval of minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as is.

2. Update on spring faculty of color reception—Luis Fraga

Luis Fraga, Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Advancement gave a short report on the upcoming Faculty of Color reception that will be held on Friday, May 16th. The event will be combined with an Enriching the Academy event.

3. Meet with Pat Dobel, Faculty Athletic Representative, Kim Durand, Associate Athletic Director for Student Development, Intercollegiate Athletics, and Emile Pitre, Associate Vice President, Office of Minority Affairs on questions about student athletes

Special guest Emile Pitre, Associate Vice President, Office of Minority Affairs, presented a detailed report on student athlete graduation rates by team and race (handout provided from which to draw out information). Pitre's presentation revealed low graduation rates for African American student athletes.

Special guest Kim Durand, Associate Athletic Director for Student Development, Intercollegiate Athletics, presented detailed information on the ethnicity of each team, special admit data, break down of student athlete majors for all athletics, and break out information for men's basketball and football programs. Durand reported on factors that affect student-athlete graduation rates.

Special guest Pat Dobel, Faculty Athletic Representative, mentioned that there is a special appeals process for student-athletes who are cut from their team so they can request continuation of financial aid. Council member Steve Schwartz asked, "What happens to student-athletes who don't succeed as athletes?" Durand replied, "A range of things. They can transfer to other schools. Some drop out of school altogether."

Chair Colonnese inquired, "Who knows about all special admits at UW?" Durand replied, Phil Ballinger, Director of Admissions. Council member Rajinder Kaul asked,

"What are special admits?" Durand replied, "They are students who are given special admission to UW because of special skills they possess, athletics, musical, etc." Special guest Bob Stacey, Divisional Dean, Arts and Humanities Divisions, noted that student-athlete special admits are most often missing certain core classes needed for admittance. Regular guest Sibrina Collins stated that "very few of the student-athletes will make it to the pros. How many are aware of this?" Durand responded, "I make presentations to freshmen about the great odds, but when I ask them how many of them expect to play in the pros every hand goes up. When I tell them . . . that probably only three of the whole group will play in the NFL, each one still thinks he will be one of those three."

Dobel spoke about the concept of the "Black gladiator," and the idea that African American young men serve as entertainment in violent sports. He spoke about how the financial support for student-athletes' academic support needs has increased and profiles have been created for coaches about what are realistic expectations for academic success at UW. Dobel noted that some previous coaches were corrupt and UW received probation for viable reasons.

Council member Clarence Spigner spoke about his contempt for the whole system of college athletes and its horrible effects on African Americans students. He inquired if student-athletes were steered toward particular disciplines. Schwartz observed that only one football player is a business major. Collins spoke about a cultural perception that African American students aren't gifted in math, science, and engineering. Durand spoke about a range of majors and pointed out data. She talked about the issue at UW of open access majors, and explained that athletics tracks to what degree a student-athlete's first choice of majors cannot be attained.

Chair Colonnesi stated that earlier the athletics staff talked about former corrupt coaches, and asked, "How was it that their actions went undetected or uncorrected?" Stacey replied that the faculty councils failed to do their jobs to oversee athletics. Schwartz disagreed with that statement, saying that "councils affect almost nothing. They have no real power. The UW would also be better off to recruit more rounded students, maybe with a better balance of athletic and academic ability." Spigner asked about "hostile faculty." Durand gave an example related to a particular student-athlete. Spigner asked Durand if she had read the articles about the UW football program and what she thought about them. Durand replied, "They made me embarrassed for the University." Spigner asked her if these events could still take place. Durand talked about safe guards now in place and different procedures and reporting lines. Dobel added to the discussion about safeguards and said so much depends on the school President. He noted that the Faculty Oversight Committee is more balanced now with more skeptics aboard.

Council member Dan Hart said that hearing the conversations made him feel desperate when thinking how the resources could be used for much better purposes. Dobel stated that he is a faculty member and no one would design the system that we have, but there is still an upside to athletics and the achievements that it fosters around examples of teamwork and self-sacrifice. He also warned that "the whole thing is like riding a tiger;

one has to always be careful.” Kaul stated, “As I look at the system of athletics in the US it seems that it is bound to fail. The system gives the wrong incentives.”

Chair Colonnese wrapped up the discussion saying, “During this discussion it is clear that various mindsets come forth, some faculty members despise athletics and view it as inherently evil and flawed and wish it could be banned from universities; others see it as something that is flawed, but realize it is part of the structure of the system, and the task is to make it the best it can be. Let us continue this discussion on our discussion board, and we will decide, together, on what actions we might take.”

4. Meet with Juan Guerra, Associate Dean Go-Map, Graduate School on Morehouse College partnership with UW.

Juan Guerra, Associate Dean Go-Map, Graduate School, reported on the recent visit of a group from Morehouse College to UW. He explained that the visit allowed an opportunity for faculty at UW to form partnerships with Morehouse faculty in order to interest students in doing graduate work at UW. Invited guest Collins stated that a result of the visit was that eight Morehouse students will be serving student internships at UW this summer. Spigner noted that the task is sustaining the relationship and partnerships that may form from it. Schwartz spoke about the uniqueness of Morehouse campus and the outstanding quality of their students.

Chair Colonnese again asked for follow-up conversation on the FCMA discussion board with the goal of moving toward a particular action on this topic.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes by Tom Colonnese, Chair, FCMA

Present: **Faculty:** Colonnese (Chair), Hart, Kaul, Schwartz, Spigner
President’s Designee: Fraga
Ex Officio Reps: Diaz
Regularly Invited Guests: Collins, Kim

Absent: **Faculty:** Flores (excused), Fu (excused), Gamboa (excused), Ross (excused), Roy (excused), Yang (excused)
Ex Officio Reps: Murphy (excused), Johnston, Roseth (excused)

Special Guests: Patrick Dobel, Kim Durand, Emile Pitre, Robert Stacey