

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Faculty Affairs Annual Report 2006-2007
Jan Sjøvik, Chair

The Faculty Council on Faculty Affairs met fourteen times during the 2006-2007 academic year and considered a number of different issues. Perhaps the most significant of these—it resulted in Class A legislation—concerned the manner in which the Secretary of the Faculty is appointed. Historically, the Secretary of the Faculty has been designated by the President of the University of Washington, who has chosen this individual from a list of three nominees provided by the Senate Executive Committee. Revised Class A legislation, found in Section 22-56 of the Faculty Code, transfers this function to the Senate Executive Committee and the Faculty Senate; the SEC chooses the Secretary of the Faculty, after which the Senate confirms her or him. This legislation was passed unanimously by the Faculty Senate and overwhelmingly approved by the voting faculty of the University of Washington.

Up to the present time the Secretary of the Faculty has served at the pleasure of the President of the University of Washington. As the changes to Section 22-56 were discussed by the members of the FCFA, it became apparent that it might be necessary to establish procedures for the removal of faculty leaders, as the Code is silent concerning this matter. The FCFA consequently drafted legislation for this purpose, pending the approval of the changes to Section 22-56, and has submitted its draft of this new piece of legislation to the Senate Executive Committee.

While the two legislative proposals discussed above took up approximately two thirds of the council's meeting time during the year, FCFA also discussed a number of other significant issues. The Faculty Senate Chair, Gail Stygall, asked for three representatives from the FCFA to join a similar number of representatives from the Senate Committee on Planning and Budgeting for the purpose of reviewing the salary policy of the University of Washington. After an extensive review, a report was then presented to the Senate Executive Committee.

The FCFA was also asked to offer advice on two issues of potentially great significance to the faculty, emergency preparedness and pod casting. Regarding the former, Steven Charvat, the Emergency Management Director at the University of Washington, sought the council's input on several matters relating to a prolonged emergency situation. Among these were concerns related to communication during an emergency, how to prioritize and continue critical research, and what kind of instructional alternatives are available if regular classroom and other facilities are unavailable for an extended period of time. On the latter, Jill McKinstry, Director, Odegaard Undergraduate Library, solicited the response of the members of the FCFA to a very informative status report, including a draft policy for how to handle recorded lectures in various formats. While the university has been recording lectures for the past three decades, new technology makes it increasingly possible to integrate such recordings into the instructional process.

The Faculty Code's procedures for reorganization, consolidation, and elimination of programs have now been in place for more than a decade, and during the first FCFA meeting of the year, Senate Chair Gail Stygall asked the council to revisit these procedures with a view toward possible simplification. The FCFA discussed this matter throughout the year as time allowed, hearing presentations by Professor Jan Carline and Dean Patricia Wahl concerning a recent RCEP experience. The council will continue its consideration of the matter during the 2007-2008 academic year.

Another issue that will be held over for next year concerns the status of extension lecturers in University of Washington Educational Outreach. A number of lecturers in the English Language Programs are not covered by the Faculty Code, even though their academic credentials and instructional activities are similar to those performed by regular University of Washington faculty. During Autumn Quarter, 2007, the FCFA will begin to study whether or not the faculty status of these individuals should be adjusted to better reflect their professional background and activities.