

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Faculty Affairs
Wednesday, March 12, 2008
36 Gerberding Hall

Jan Sjøvik called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

Meeting synopsis:

1. Approval of agenda and the minutes of the February 27, 2008, meeting.
2. Conciliation (continued discussion).
3. RCEP (continued discussion).

1. Approval of agenda and minutes.

The agenda and the minutes of the February 27, 2008, meeting were approved as corrected.

2. Conciliation – continued discussion.

Chair Sjøvik reported that a representative of the University's Division of the Attorney General advised that Section 27-41.D. be changed to reflect a more realistic assurance of confidentiality based on provisions of the Uniform Mediation Act in a recent revision of Chapter 7.07 RCW. He has forwarded this information to Professor Alan Kirtley who will respond with the faculty perspective on this issue next week. The proposed language is currently in use by the Ombudsman's Office.

In the meantime, the Council proposed the following changes to Chapter 27:

Second sentence of introductory paragraph of Chapter 27: "The proceedings set forth in this chapter are forms of mediation that are permissive, not mandatory."

The introductory paragraph of Section 27-31: "The faculty member may first, where applicable, discuss the issue about which he or she is concerned with the appropriate department chair~~person~~ and, if the faculty member so wishes, then an appropriate academic administrator. The matter may be concluded by mutual consent at ~~this~~ any point."

First sentence of revised Section 27-41.D: "As a condition to undertaking the conciliation, the conciliation officer will require that the parties enter into a conciliation/mediation agreement..."

Section 27-41.F: "At the termination of a conciliation proceeding, the conciliation officer shall report to the Conciliation Board and the Secretary of the Faculty the general nature of the dispute and whether a mutually agreeable resolution was or was not achieved."

Section 27-42.A: "In attempts to achieve conciliation of differences (Section 27-41), the conciliation officer assigned to a case shall have the confidential assistance and advice of a Conciliation Board, consisting of ~~the Ombudsman and~~ the other conciliation officers and the Ombudsman, who shall chair the Board."

Delete Section 27-42.B. (Changes made to 27-41.F and 27-42.A make section B superfluous.)

Section 27-42.A: Remove the letter “A.” (Having deleted section B, there’s no need for a section labeled “A.”)

The following will be prepared for the next FCFA meeting:

- Cheryl Cameron will obtain a copy of the mediation agreement used by the Ombudsman’s Office to function as an example or template for a possible agreement to be used by Conciliation Officers.
- Jan Sjøvik will find and distribute copies of Chapter 7.07 RCW to members of the Council for further discussion of Section 27-41.D.
- Sjøvik will also incorporate the changes proposed at today’s meeting into a draft for consideration at the next FCFA meeting.

3. RCEP – continued discussion.

Sjøvik reported that he had e-mailed the Council’s RCEP revisions to chairs of elected councils of all the Colleges, Schools and Campuses – asking for feedback either in writing or by visiting a meeting of FCFA.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Minutes by Susan Folk
Assistant to the Secretary of the Faculty
slfolk@u.washington.edu

Present:

Regular: Christie, Di Stefano, Hildebrandt, Ricker, Scheuer, Sjøvik, Vaughan
President’s Designee: Cameron

Absent:

Regular: Bryant-Bertail, Callis, Carline, Gill, Phillips (all excused)
Ex Officio: Bazarnic, Hahn, Cook (all excused)