

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Faculty Affairs
Wednesday, February 4, 2009, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
36 Gerberding Hall

Council Chair Jan Sjøvik called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting synopsis:

1. Approve the minutes of the previous meeting and the agenda of this meeting.
2. Brief discussion on RCEP
3. Conciliation
4. Senate Restructure

1. Approval of agenda and review of minutes from the January 21, 2009, FCFA meeting

The agenda was approved as amended to include brief discussion on RCEP. The minutes of the January 21st meeting were approved.

2. Brief discussion on RCEP

Cheryl Cameron announced that she could have a final copy of the new RCEP timeline for FCFA members to review at the next meeting prior to going to the Senate Executive Committee. Senate Chair David Lovell encouraged FCFA members to be prepared to make the argument for the extended timeline to the SEC.

3. Conciliation

Alan Kirtley began his presentation on changes to Conciliation as described in Section 27-41 of the Faculty Code. Kirtley stated that as a member of the Conciliation Board he had some concerns with regard to the size of the Conciliation Boards and of limitations to the Board's capacity. Lack of availability for board members to attend Conciliation hearings due to a variety of reasons (medical, sabbatical, etc.) is a major area of concern. Additionally, there is the issue of conflict of interest. In its current form, the code states that the board members cannot come from the same school or college as the dispute being addressed. In light of the current economic situation and in anticipation of the likelihood of an increased number of hearings, Kirtley and other Board members decided that the size of the board is the issue that needs to be addressed. He also noted that there is a new process in place for a new Ombudsman and felt it was premature for the board to decide what should happen when a new Ombudsman may have different ideas. The proposed new Section 27-41 appears below:

Version of Chapter 27 adopted by the FCFA to increase Board size to 24

Section 27-41. Conciliatory Proceedings

A. If the process of resolution by mutual consent under Section [27-31](#) does not take place or fails, the faculty member or the dean may request the assistance of a conciliation officer as a neutral third party by applying to the University Ombudsman for the assignment of a conciliation officer. Conciliatory proceedings aim at resolving problems by informal means without resorting to the more formal adjudicative proceedings provided in [Chapter 28](#).

1. Conciliation officers shall be tenured members of the faculty, associate and full professors without tenure for reasons of funding, or emeritus faculty who are familiar with procedures and opportunities for the resolution of disputes or complaints involving faculty members.
2. There shall be not more than ~~six~~ twenty-four conciliation officers who shall serve three-year ~~staggered terms commencing on September 16.~~
3. Conciliation officers shall be selected by the President from a list of names ~~equal to twice the number of vacancies,~~ prepared and approved by the Senate Executive Committee. Vacancies for the remainder of unexpired terms shall be filled according to this same procedure. Conciliation officers may be reappointed to successive terms by mutual consent of the President and the Senate Executive Committee.
4. Any conciliation officer may be removed during his or her term of office by concurrent decision of the President and the Senate Executive Committee.
5. Conciliation officers shall be attached to the Office of the University Ombudsman but shall be limited in their activity to disagreements arising among faculty members or between individual faculty members and the University administration.

6. The Ombudsman, who may consult with the other members of the Conciliation Board (Section [27-42](#)), shall determine which conciliation officer shall be assigned to a case, and shall inform the Secretary of the Faculty of appointments made. No conciliation officer shall be assigned to a case arising within his or her own school or college.

Kirtley asked FCFA to authorize the Chair to send it back to SEC with the support of this group in hopes that this piece of legislation will pass and FCFA can begin working on the rest. There was some discussion among the FCFA surrounding the proposed changes. Senate Chair David Lovell pointed out to the FCFA that this piece has already been approved by the FCFA and all that remains is to put it on the SEC calendar. Kirtley made a motion to authorize Chair Sjøvik to present the legislation to the SEC; however he immediately withdrew the motion as it was not necessary. Sjøvik directed the Council to move on to the next agenda item.

4. Senate Restructure

Chair Sjøvik began the discussion surrounding Senate Restructure in stating that not everyone agrees that a smaller Senate is necessary or helpful. He also pointed out that there are differing opinions with regard to the involvement of elected chairs and additional radical changes to Senate structure. He referred to a presentation to the FCFA given by Linda Fullerton of the Office of University Committees, in which Fullerton stated that elections are difficult and the process is challenging. Fullerton feels that the process could be easier and more streamlined to accomplish the task of staffing the Senate properly if some changes were made. Senate Chair David Lovell stated that departments should be asked to hold their own elections. In light of the UW's budget situation, the OUC can no longer support that activity. He feels the Senate should be smaller as it shows to results. Currently, Lovell pointed out that Senators leave early and many do not want to participate. Additionally, Senators feel that their interests and concerns are rooted in their departments. So, Lovell feels that the Senate make-up should be departmental in representation. Lovell feels that department concerns should be represented and given a voice in the Senate. He added that the basic principal of having departments pick a senator is really the most important piece. Lovell would like to see this proposal come to the Senate floor.

There was much discussion among FCFA members around this issue. Secretary of the Faculty Marcia Killien provided some statistical data with regard to number of Senators and representation by department. Several members pointed out if the Senate representation decreases by number, it will be paramount to have dedicated, capable Senators. Astley requested that more information be prepared and discussed at the next FCFA meeting. The meeting closed with a brief discussion on the current process in place for forming Faculty Councils.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Minutes by Kelly Baker
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Present:

Regular: Astley, Bryant-Bertail, Carline, Christie,
DiStefano, Kirtley, O'Brien, Philips, Scheuer, Ricker, Sjøvik
Wilcock
President's Designee: Cameron
Ex Officio: Barker, Corbett, Killien, Lovell, Balick, Nguyen, Vallier

Absent:

Regular: