

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Faculty Affairs
Wednesday, February 18, 2009, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
36 Gerberding Hall

Council Chair Jan Sjøvik called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Meeting synopsis:

1. Approve the minutes of the previous meeting and the agenda of this meeting.
2. Report on status of RCEP and Conciliation legislation
3. Senate Restructure

1. Approval of agenda and review of minutes from the February 4, 2009, FCFA meeting

The agenda was approved as amended to include brief discussion on RCEP. The minutes of the February 4, 2009 meeting were approved as amended.

2. Report on status of RCEP and Conciliation legislation

Chair Sjøvik opened his report by thanking FCFA members for doing a good job at editing the legislation. He also thanked Cheryl Cameron for her work on the legislation. There was a brief discussion on the accompanying rationales for both the RCEP and the Conciliation legislations. Cameron distributed the final RCEP timeline diagram to the Council. It was noted that this diagram would also go to the SEC with the RCEP legislation.

3. Senate Restructure

Chair Sjøvik began the discussion surrounding Senate Restructure in stating he would like to see some movement on the issue. Astley said she was not sure why the Senate would want to be restructured. She wanted to know what was wrong with the current structure, what is broken and would reducing the size of the Senate be the solution. Astley realized there may be some fiscal advantages to having a smaller Senate. However, she felt that there may be other issues that need to be addressed and thought this Council should spend some time identifying underlying issues and possible outcomes. Sjøvik pointed out that many senators leave meetings early, but we do not know their reasons. He realizes there is little interaction among senators indicating the appearance of passivity. He would like to explore the issue further and try to find out if there is a lack of information for the senators or are they simply not dedicated to the role.

There was much discussion among FCFA members around this subject. Council members discussed their Senate experiences with one another. It was generally agreed upon that the Senate doesn't work well as a deliberative body. It was also noted that FCFA members felt there is a disconnect between Faculty Councils and the Senate membership. While some members are in full support of a Senate restructure, others wanted more time to talk out the issues to see if the size of the Senate is playing a role in hindering its productivity. In light of the need for further discussion, Chair Sjøvik established a subcommittee to discuss Senate restructure. He appointed members Christie and Astley. Jan Carline volunteered to serve as well. Sjøvik stated he would also ask FCFA member Kevin O'Brien to serve on the committee. Marcia Killien, Secretary of the Faculty, advised the subcommittee to consider examining whether the restructure of Senate and SEC would be helpful in improving the function of the Senate. He asked the subcommittee to meet before the next FCFA meeting so that they could report their findings back to the Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Minutes by Kelly Baker
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Present:

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

Absent:

Regular: Bryant-Bertail, O'Brien
Ex Officio: Balick