

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Faculty Affairs
Thursday, March 16, 2009, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
36 Gerberding Hall

Council Chair Jan Sjøvik called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting synopsis:

1. Approve the minutes of the previous meeting and the agenda of this meeting
2. Report from Bruce Balick, Vice-Chair of the Faculty Senate
3. Report on the status of RCEP and Conciliation
4. Senate restructure (continued discussion)

1. Approval of agenda and review of minutes from the February 18, 2009 FCFA meeting

The agenda was approved as amended to include brief report from Bruce Balick, Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate. The minutes of the February 18, 2009 meeting were approved.

2. Report from Bruce Balick, Vice-Chair of the Faculty Senate

Balick reported to the Council some of the challenges the UW will be facing in the upcoming year with specific regard to the faculty and the code. He feels there should be some legislation in place for the Administration to be able to deal with the financial crisis without being stopped by the Faculty Code. Balick would like to have some tools in place so that when the Administration needs to be able to make quick changes the current code does not hamper that effort. Balick proposed that the FCFA members design a specific Class A legislation, temporary in nature, to be used in times as the University is currently experiencing. He defined the characteristics of this temporary legislation to be easily and quickly put into effect, and temporary in nature which would automatically revert back to original policy in two years' time.

There was discussion among Council members regarding Balick's proposal. Guest Lea Vaughn, Professor in the UW School of Law, suggested the Council not rush into proposing any temporary Class A legislation without careful consideration. She thought having something ready for the Fall Quarter would be both effective and timely. Many members agreed that a temporary Class A legislation would be a good idea. They cited open lines of communication and the acts of good faith in maintaining a good relationship with the Board of Regents as benefits. Additionally the group felt that fall would be a more appropriate time to introduce the legislation, as more would be known about the economic status of the UW at that time. Balick said he would work with Vaughn to prepare a draft version of his proposed legislation at an upcoming FCFA meeting.

3. Report on the status of RCEP and Conciliation

Chair Sjøvik informed the Council that both the RCEP and Conciliation legislation proposals passed the Senate at first reading on Thursday. The Conciliation legislation was minimally amended to exclude the requirement for providing a list of twice the number of candidates as there are vacancies. Sjøvik stated that he was impressed with President Emmert's graciousness in connection to the matter. The RCEP passed with no amendments. Both Class A proposals will now go to the Advisory Committee on Faculty Code and Regulations for review.

4. Senate Restructure (continued discussion)

Chair Sjøvik opened the discussion regarding Senate Restructure by informing the Council of the outcome of the subcommittee meeting. The main topic of discussion was to reduce the size of the Senate being mindful to ensure that the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) would not then be made up of ninety percent of the smaller Senate. His first thought is to leave SEC in its current form, not changing the structure. Sjøvik identified the second point of consideration was that of the current election system. He felt this was easily a responsibility that should be shifted to departments locally. The third item of discussion was that of the current system of representation, especially for the small departments. He offered various ratios and suggested combing smaller departments in an effort to reduce the number of senators. Additionally, Sjøvik suggested encouraging duly elected college councils to send either their chair or another member to server as their Senate representative.

There was discussion among Council members and several members felt a good argument could be made to exclude college council chairs from holding senate seats. DiStefano voiced some concern over pairing up smaller departments citing the maintenance of unit representation in the Senate as an important issue. She suggested changing the ratio as an option. Marcia Killien, Secretary of the Faculty, noted that the functionality of the Senate was the most important piece to keep in mind and that she would also be in favor of a smaller Senate. Discussion followed along the topics of balance and communication with the respective units. Killien stated that the Office of University Committees (OUC) would be sure to work with the college councils, identifying the OUC's connection

to the schools and colleges a primary function. The discussion on Senate Restructure would be continued at the next FCFA meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Minutes by Kelly Baker
Council Support Specialist
kcbaker@u.washington.edu

Present:

Regular: Astley, Bryant-Bertail, Carline, DiStefano, Kirtley, O'Brien, Scheuer, Ricker, Sjøvik
Wilcock
President's Designee: Cameron
Special Guest: Vaughn
Ex Officio: Killien, Lovell, Balick,

Absent:

Regular: Christie, Phillips
Ex Officio: Barker, Corbett, Nguyen, Vallier