

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Faculty Affairs
Tuesday, October 13, 2009, 8:30 a.m.
301 Gerberding Hall

Council Chair Rich Christie called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Meeting synopsis:

1. Approval of the agenda
 2. Consideration of voting rights for ex officio members of FCFA
 3. Special resolution
 4. Senate and SEC restructure (continued discussion)
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1. Approval of agenda

The agenda for the meeting was approved.

With regard to a future agenda items, Alan Kirtley reported that some progress had been made on contemplated revisions to Chapter 27 of the Faculty Code (Administrative and Conciliatory Proceedings for the Resolution of Differences). Progress has been complicated by attempts to coordinate the procedures of Chapter 27 with other dispute resolution processes offered through the University. Given that the Senate restructure proposal will monopolize the time of the Council this quarter, Kirtley will report back to the Council during winter quarter.

2. Consideration of voting rights for ex officio members

After some discussion a decision was made to continue the tradition of reserving voting rights to the faculty members on the Council.

3. Special Resolution

Chair Christie offered a resolution of appreciation for the extraordinary efforts of the previous Chair, Jan Sjåvik-- for his leadership, wisdom and humor. An amendment was made (and accepted as a friendly amendment) to include "insights on Norwegian culture." The resolution was approved by a unanimous vote.

4. Senate and SEC restructure

Chair Christie introduced the discussion with a review of what had transpired since the last FCFA meeting. At that last meeting of the 08-09 academic year, a plan had been formulated to convene a drafting committee over the summer to prepare draft legislation for FCFA consideration, in hopes of having a document ready to send to the SEC by its second meeting of the Fall Quarter (November 16, 2009). The drafting committee included Christie, Sjåvik, O'Brien, and Killien, and met once before the Fall Quarter began. The result of that meeting, the draft legislation, was distributed via e-mail and also as paper copies at the meeting. There are a handful of issues that still need to be resolved, in addition to those that might come up as Council reviews the new draft. He hoped either to resolve those issues before November 16 – or to provide alternative language on each unresolved issue that the Council could forward to the SEC with the legislation.

Secretary of the Faculty Marcia Killien distributed copies and reported on her survey of College Council Chairs regarding their openness to the possibility of taking responsibility for conducting Senate elections – and discovered that six would be willing, six would consider it, six were unlikely to consider it, and one would definitely not consider it. The response was more favorable and heartening than she had anticipated.

Christie then reported on having been contacted about extending eligibility for regular Senate membership to Librarians. Although this is something that should be considered by Faculty Affairs or another Faculty Council, it is not something that should be melded into the current legislation due to

time considerations for the changes already proposed. John Vallier, representing the Associated Librarians of the University of Washington, agreed – saying that the Librarians themselves are divided at this point on whether they want to go in this direction. They, too, could use more time to consider this.

The Chair then turned to the restructuring legislation draft document and explained that the first column included current Code language; the second column included proposed changes; and the third column included explanations and rationales for the changes made. He mentioned again that it may be expedient, given the assumed deadlines for submitting this legislation, to send a document to the SEC that includes alternative versions of various sections of the Code, unless FCFA can come to a consensus on each of those issues before the deadline. The Council, however, concluded that it would prefer to hold itself to reaching consensus on all the issues first, before sending the document to the SEC.

In response to a request that he review the status of existing draft, the Chair went through a Powerpoint presentation that he had prepared for a briefing of the Faculty Senate Chair's cabinet some weeks before (see attached).

The first issue needing resolution was Section 22-41-C. The council began to look for some middle ground as the two options listed seemed extreme. The first alternative was to include both Faculty Council Chairs and College Council Chairs as ex officio with vote. The second alternative was to include neither Faculty Council Chairs nor College Council Chairs on the Faculty Senate at all. Arguments for the first alternative primarily dealt with the value of including the wisdom and experience these faculty members would bring to the Senate. Arguments against the first alternative dealt with proportionality of the Senate membership – and the ratio of those appointed vs. those directly elected by the faculty. Arguments for the second amendment were that it would preserve proportionality and a healthy ratio of elected faculty members to those appointed as ex officio members. Arguments against the second amendment included the potential loss, especially, of a vital connection with the arm of shared governance that consists of the elected faculty councils of the colleges, schools and campuses. Another argument was the loss of the wisdom and experience these Chairs, and the Chairs of Faculty Councils, could bring to Senate deliberations.

Ensuing discussion included extended consideration of the merits of proportionality of Senate membership and the principals of representative government. It also touched on recognition of the commitment and efforts of Faculty Council Chairs and the possibility of finding ways to make Senate participation desirable and worthwhile to College Council Chairs, if they were to be appointed as ex officio without vote.

In its attempt to find middle ground, the Council came up with a proposal to provide for appointment of the chairs of Faculty Councils and of Bothell and Tacoma faculty organizations as ex officio members *with* vote. In addition, Chairs of College Councils would be ex officio *without* vote. The Council approved, by straw vote, this language for Section 22-41.C and D – and reconfirmed its commitment not to forward alternative options to the SEC. This change is reflected in Revision 3 – October 13, 2009 (attached).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes by Susan Folk sfolk@u.washington.edu

Present:

Regular:	Astley, Christie, DiStefano, Kirtley, Philips, Sjåvik,
Ex Officio:	Corbett, Vallier
President's Designee:	Cameron
Guests:	Balick, Killien

Absent:

Regular:	Bryant-Bertail, Carline, O'Brien, Ricker, Scheuer, Wilcock
Ex Officio:	Padvorac