

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Faculty Affairs
Tuesday, November 24, 2009, 8:30 a.m.
142 Gerberding Hall

Council Chair Rich Christie called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Meeting synopsis:

1. Approval of the agenda and minutes
 2. Senate and SEC restructure (continued discussion)
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1. Approval of agenda and minutes

The agenda for the meeting and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

2. Senate and SEC restructure

Faculty Council on Faculty Affairs (FCFA) Chair Rich Christie opened the discussion by reviewing principles the Council had agreed upon at the last meeting:

1. The Senate Executive Committee (SEC) should be restructured;
2. The size of the SEC should be reduced (to about 15 members);
3. The composition of the SEC should consist of the four executive members, plus some combination of other groups, yet to be specified.

Referring to the powers and duties assigned to the SEC in the Faculty Code, he noted that the SEC is changed to assist the Senate by providing liaison between the President and the Faculty Senate – and for acting for the Senate over the summer months. Given those responsibilities, it could be argued that members of the SEC should be drawn exclusively from the elected members of the Faculty Senate. But the argument has also been made that including ex officio members to the SEC, specifically the chairs of faculty councils, gives the SEC the benefit of the considerable history and wisdom those faculty members would bring.

The current SEC includes:

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| • group representatives | 11 |
| • chairs of faculty governance organizations at Bothell and Tacoma | 2 |
| • council chairs | 14 |
| • “executive” members | 4 |
| • total | 31 |

To reduce the size of the SEC in proportion to the reduction in size of the proposed revised senate, one configuration to consider would be eleven members drawn from the Faculty Senate, plus the four executive members.

Senate Chair Bruce Balick suggested a modification of that proposal be reducing the eleven members drawn from the Faculty Senate to eight, and replacing those positions with ex officio voting positions for the chairs of the Faculty Councils on Faculty Affairs, Student Affairs and Academic Standards.

Discussion ensued about the importance of representation and the reasons why a smaller SEC would, or would not, be more desirable. Christie noted that when an official Financial Emergency situation is declared, the operative committee convened to oversee the situation is a body that includes the Senate Committee on Planning and Budgeting (SCPB) and the SEC. This provision was put into the Code before the 14 Faculty Council Chairs were added as voting members of the SEC. The combined committee would be unwieldy at best.

Christie then asked Council members to focus on finding consensus on the size of the SEC. Discussion seemed to support the notion that the current SEC is too large, but concerns kept coming up about the importance of ensuring diversity among the membership of the new SEC.

When asked to consider Balick's proposal, a question was raised about whether the Faculty Council on Research should be added to the list of three Faculty Councils to be represented on the SEC. This question was answered by another proposal to limit the list of Faculty Councils represented to Faculty Affairs only. Another idea was to leave the nomination process to a nominating committee charged with finding a slate of members that would include three chairs of (undesignated) faculty councils in addition to 8 more at large members.

More discussion focused on the attributes brought by members of the SEC and what is gained by ensuring diversity across colleges or departments. Concern was raised about the possibility of establishing procedures that may lead to a self-perpetuating Council. Others were concerned that Senators have a designated representative on the SEC. How would that be managed without a system of "Groups" such as now exist or something similar?

Secretary of the Faculty Marcia Killien suggested that the discussion was leading into unnecessarily complicated territory. She suggested three "groups" might be upper campus, lower campus and the branch campuses.

As the meeting approached the time for adjournment, Chair Christie summarized the discussion:

- That there might be (should be?) three Faculty Council chairs included as voting members on the SEC;
- That the size of the SEC should be smaller
- That there might be (should be?) a Nominating Committee to prepare a slate of SEC members (although no provision for choosing a Nominating Committee was addressed);
- That there is a need to ensure broad representation across the campus.

In preparation for the next meeting, Christie suggested that FCFA members consider:

- How to select a Nominating Committee;
- How best to establish a structure that would promote representation on the Council.

FCFA member Alan Kirtley urged the council to work toward consensus on defining the groups that would be used in recruiting SEC members.

With no further additions or changes to Revision #5 of the latest draft proposal (dated November 10, 2009), the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes by Susan Folk slfolk@u.washington.edu

Present:

Regular:	Astley, Christie, Di Stefano, Kirtley, O'Brien, Phillips, Ricker, Sjøvik, Wilcock
Ex Officio:	Vallier
President's Designee:	Cameron
Guests:	Balick, Killien

Absent:

Regular:	Bryant-Bertail, Carline, Scheuer
Ex Officio:	Padvorac, Corbett