

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Faculty Affairs
Tuesday, December 15, 2009, 8:30 a.m.
26 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 the agenda and minutes

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

2. Senate and SEC restructure

FCFA member William Wilcock reviewed his concerns with the current version of the Senate restructuring legislation. This generated a wide ranging discussion around three major issues, which were resolved as follows:

1. Concern about the time line with a nomination process. Since the nominees must come from senators who will serve in the Senate in the next year, the Senate elections must be complete before the last SEC meeting of the Spring quarter to know who is eligible. The Council chose to require that elections be complete two weeks before the last SEC meeting (22-47C change) and to allow schools, colleges and campuses to conduct elections in the Winter or Spring quarter (22-47A change). In the process it was discovered that the proposed language did not, in fact, require that serving elected members of the SEC also be serving in the Senate. 22-62A.6 was changed to require this.

2. Concern about real and apparent conflict of interest when the SEC nominates candidates for the SEC. Discussion for some time focused on turnover in the SEC. One view was that the eight elected senators should be limited to one term. The alternative was that the three-year term limits on the SEC and four-year term limits on the Senate would ensure there was a balance between continuity and turnover. This issue was resolved by providing guidance to the nomination process to balance continuity and turnover. (22-63B change).

Discussion then focused on apparent legitimacy of a process where the SEC nominates its own members. FCFA member Christine DiStefano proposed that the Senate Chair form a nominating committee. With the addition of the Immediate Past Chair this was agreed by the Council (22-63B change).

3. Concern about breadth of representation on the SEC. Wilcock pointed out that “professional programs” in 22-63.B did not include “everybody else.” The latter had been the intent of the Council at the previous meeting. The phrase was changed to “and other schools and colleges.” (22-63B change). Wilcock was concerned that the Senate could override the distribution suggested for the nominating process. Christie said that this would be an extraordinary outcome that would occur only in extraordinary circumstances and the Senate should have that ability, in case such circumstances arose. After further discussion, the Council voted 6-1 to retain the existing, non-binding distribution language.

The Council voted 7-0 to forward the senate restructuring legislative language, as amended, to the Senate Executive Committee.

The Council adjourned at 9:55.

Minutes by Rich Christie, richc@uw.edu

Present:

Regular: Astley, Christie, Sjavik, Ricker, Wilcock, Di Stefano

President’s Designee: Cameron

Ex Officio: Vallier

Guests: Balick

Absent:

Regular: Bryant-Bertail, Carline, Kirtley, O’Brien, Philips, Scheuer

Ex Officio: Corbett, Padrovac