

Gail Stygall, Chair
University of Washington Faculty Senate
Remarks at February 15, 2007 Board of Regents

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. I will speak briefly on current legislation in the Faculty Senate and then I want to turn to the Senate's work on salary issues.

At the Senate's last meeting, we heard Class A legislation on Tri-campus issues, specifically, the status of the faculty organizations at Bothell and Tacoma and the relationship of those organizations to their chancellors. The Senate passed the legislation on the first reading. In between the first reading and the second reading, the legislation goes to both the President and what we fondly call the "code cops," the Advisory Committee on Faculty Code and Regulations. The "code cops" have some concerns with the legislation achieving consistency with the rest of the chapter and so we will delay the second reading until April. At our recent Senate Executive Committee meeting, we heard two new pieces of legislation. One is Class A legislation changing the way in which a Secretary of the Faculty is selected, the legislation changing the process from an appointment to an election. The second piece of legislation changes the way distance education or electronic delivery of a course is noted on students' transcripts, from a current specific DL designation to removing the DL designation from the external transcript. There will still be an internal designation so that particular requirements of distance courses may continue to be monitored. The Faculty Council on Educational Outreach polled 36 other institutions, similar to ours, and found that we are the only ones still maintaining the distance designation.

Turning to faculty compensation issues, I wanted you to know that we are in the process of starting a public discussion within both the Faculty Senate itself and the wider group of voting faculty members on these issues. The issues have both a short term component, the budgets now being proposed in the state legislature, and a long term component, the need for an actual salary policy. Toward that end of starting the public discussion among the faculty, I have sent an initial message to the voting faculty discussing the Governor's proposed budget. Of particular importance was distinguishing between what the Governor has proposed for salary increases for all state employees and what it is possible for the University of Washington to do with a healthy budget increase. My second message will be sent

tomorrow and will identify the specific areas of concern, market, merit, cost of living and compression necessary to discuss to formulate a longer term policy. Based on the responses from these two initial messages, the Faculty Senate's Committee on Salary Policy will develop either a questionnaire or a guided response form for faculty. A fourth aspect of gathering faculty opinion on compensation will come from a public meeting, planned for March.

When you are asked to begin to make policy on compensation issues for faculty later in the year, from recommendations from the administration and from the faculty, separately and together, you should have the best possible assessment of the faculty's concerns. We will attempt to provide that and we will continue to work with Regent Jewell. I should note here that Regent Jewell will be visiting the Senate's primary budget committee, the Senate Committee on Planning and Budgeting, at the end of the month. We are pleased that she will be joining us.