

**Gail Stygall, Chair
University of Washington Faculty Senate
Remarks at September 21, 2006 Board of Regents**

There may be some advantages to an advocate speaking last to a jury before they deliberate, but after your full schedule today, there is probably not a similar advantage here for me today in going last. So I ask your indulgence for a few minutes while I sketch a picture of the faculty as the foundation of this university. As Regents who are responsible for the fiscal health of the institution, it may be unavoidable for you to pay most of your attention to your primary obligations. But it is the faculty who make it possible to provide our students with an education based in excellence and to provide our community, nation, and world with the very best research and scholarship and it is this I will talk about today, rather than describing what will be on the agenda for the Faculty Senate this year. Using data from the last academic year, 2005-06, I offer a picture of the faculty in their three arenas of responsibility: teaching, scholarship, and service. I am using the idea of voting faculty as the unit for the numbers that I provide, voting faculty being those tenured and tenurable and contractual full-time faculty eligible to vote in Faculty Senate elections. There are approximately 3600 voting faculty on the Seattle campus, 110 on the Tacoma campus and 65 on the Bothell faculty.

Faculty teaching on the Seattle campus last year provided an amazing 1,069,176 student credit hours. Faculty teaching on the Tacoma campus provided another 62,853 student credit hours, with the Bothell campus providing another 39,860 hours. The student head count in those classes represented by student credit hours was 290,548 on the Seattle campus, 14,455 on the Tacoma campus and 9,330 on the Bothell campus. These numbers include both undergraduate and graduate students and credit hours. In every case, there was an individual faculty member leading a class, providing a world-class education.

A particular facet of education at a research university is the production of Ph.D.s and there were 614 Ph.D.s awarded last year at the University of Washington. Again, in every case, there was an individual faculty member guiding the progress of that student, 614 faculty members, moving the student beyond the course work needed to complete a degree program. Most Ph.D. students complete somewhere around 30 hours of dissertation credit under the direction of their dissertation supervisor. That's a total

here of 18,420 graduate student credit hours of what amounts to individual tutorial work with graduate students. That tutorial work may take place in an office or a lab but the work is the singular responsibility of the supervising faculty member. And beyond the actual credit hours earned, a research university, like ours, is the place where these Ph.D. students are mentored through making future research agendas and plans and through the complexities of the academic job search. This faculty work in supervising Ph.D. students is at the heart of what constitutes a research university. These students are the next generation of scholars, researchers and university teachers. But the UW faculty also function in this same mentor role for undergraduates conducting research, and that, too, is at the heart of what constitutes a research university. Last year faculty who were mentors for Mary Gates research scholars, presenters at the Undergraduate Research Symposium, and whose departments explicitly noted their work with undergraduates doing research totaled 739. And that number, 739, does not include the hundreds of students who were supervised in departmental undergraduate research and thesis courses.

Turning to research itself, you already know that our faculty is outstanding in terms of bringing grants to the university. The totals you hear are usually in the form of dollars amounts, but let me offer another figure for fiscal year 2006: 51,231 individual grants awarded to voting faculty. That means at least 51,231 times a faculty member (and often several faculty members) sat down to write a multi-page proposal to a funding agency. And our faculty members achieve a range of faculty awards from a variety of sources, 34 in 2004 the last year for which I have data, and are elected to the National Academies, 78 here as of 2004. These numbers do not tell of the thousands of articles reporting scholarship and research or the hundreds of books, collections, textbooks, and monographs produced by faculty here at the University of Washington. Our faculty also garnered 37 new US patents in 2006 and filed 151 patent applications.

The final category, service, is one for which we have very little data. Hundreds of faculty members are involved in a variety of service activities, from serving on editorial boards of journals of research and scholarship to serving as officers of professional organizations. Faculty members are also deeply involved in community service activities, from providing expertise to public schools to state agencies, from community groups to industry organizations. But I can tell you something about those faculty members

who participate in the obligations conferred upon us by the Faculty Code, to guide educational policy, curriculum, admissions, graduation and honors, degrees, and faculty appointment, tenure and promotion. All voting faculty participate in the evaluation of one another's work annually in the form of merit evaluation. All faculty evaluate the faculty in ranks below them for possible promotion and or tenure. More specifically, there are 236 Faculty Senators, with five elected officers, 125 faculty members serving on faculty councils, and 185 faculty members serving on college and school councils. And that's not including the hundreds who serve on departmental executive committees and policy committees.

So that is a brief picture, a sketch more than a painting. We in the Faculty Senate hope that you will keep this human base of the fundamental parts of the university in mind as you take up your fiscal responsibilities. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you. May we all have a good year.