

**Gail Stygall, Chair
University of Washington Faculty Senate
Remarks at October 19, 2006 Board of Regents**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. I will be brief, but I do want to alert you to two items on the agenda for next Thursday's first meeting of the Faculty Senate for the year. One item involves interdisciplinary research and the other addresses the proposals for the future of the State Road 520 Evergreen Point Bridge.

As you know, the University of Washington has a record of exciting and productive cross- and interdisciplinary research, in areas ranging from our well-known Program on the Environment, our numerous projects between the School of Medicine and the biological sciences, the School of Medicine and the College of Engineering, the Jackson School's collaborations with a wide range of departments including history in the social sciences and a variety of modern language departments in the humanities. However, the departmental structure of most universities often better supports projects squarely within a discipline than those projects that cross disciplines. In order to address faculty concerns about better enabling cross- and interdisciplinary projects, and in order to provide opportunities for graduate students working in these areas, the Senate Executive Committee has created a special cross-campus committee on Interdisciplinary Research. This committee, composed of a subset of members of the current Faculty Council on Research and a group of other interested faculty from across the university, will explore both successes and problems in interdisciplinary research, identify roadblocks in initiating research projects and grant funding for interdisciplinary research here at the University of Washington, investigate how other peer universities enhance interdisciplinary possibilities and develop concrete recommendations for improving this branch of research at the university. The Provost's Colleges and Schools Organization Committee is also examining this issue. We hope there is a convergence of recommendations from the Senate and administrative committees.

A second item on the Faculty Senate agenda of interest (and perhaps some public discussion) is a Class C resolution on the proposed plans for a new SR 520 bridge. Class C resolutions are not binding but are a record of the sense of the Senate and the Senate will examine and discuss a Class C resolution next

Thursday. The resolution, available on the Faculty Senate's website, is fairly detailed in its description of the proposals, ends in a three part resolution. First, that the Faculty Senate supports a replacement of the 520 bridge that promotes the use of high occupancy vehicles and transit; second, that the Faculty Senate opposes any alteration of the 520 bridge that fundamentally changes the nature of the campus and the ability of the university of carry out its stated mission; and third, that the Faculty Senate has grave concerns in particular about the Pacific Street Interchange, the current preferred option by the Washington Department of Transportation, because this option will have numerous adverse impacts on the campus.

These will be the most visible items on next Thursday's agenda. As we move through the year, I will keep you informed on the Senate's issues and agendas as these items move to the Senate floor. Thank you.