

**Gail Stygall, Chair
University of Washington Faculty Senate
Remarks at November 16, 2006 Board of Regents**

Thank you Regent Kiga. Today, I would like to update you on Faculty Senate action taken at our meeting on October 26, an upcoming issue for the November 30 meeting, and on the work of two faculty councils for this year.

As I reported to you at the last meeting, the Faculty Senate was likely to be asked to approve a Class C Resolution on the planned rebuilding of the 520 bridge. At its October 26 meeting, the Faculty Senate did pass by a strong majority a resolution responding to the Washington Department of Transportation draft Environmental Impact Statement for several proposals to replace the 520 bridge. The resolution opposes “any alteration of SR 520 that fundamentally alters the character of campus and interferes with the ability of the University to carry out its mission” and that the faculty as “grave concerns about the adoption of the Pacific Street Interchange” as the “preferred option” because it has adverse impacts on the University and the surrounding areas relative to the benefits offered. We sent the resolution to Washington Department of Transportation within the comment period.

In our upcoming November 30 meeting, we will be discussing the impact of legislation on textbook pricing that passed in Olympia last year. This legislation took aim at the practices of textbook publishers, who, in the eyes of the legislature, adopted procedures that made student textbooks cost more. Especially expensive are two aspects: one is the frequent changing of editions; the other is bundling – where the publisher includes add-ons, including CDs, workbooks, auxiliary texts – is less well known. The University Bookstore has been asked to present their perspective on the issues. We hope that through this presentation faculty members will become more aware of practices with which they have not been previously familiar.

Turning next to Faculty Councils, the Faculty Councils are the equivalent of committees in legislatures and Congress. Legislation emerges from these Councils that derive from the faculty’s responsibility for curriculum, admission and graduation standards, student life, faculty affairs and the general welfare of the

university. This legislation may change, add or amend both Volume Two of the University Handbook, often called the "Faculty Code," and Volume Four, General Information and Selected Rules and Policies. In the past two years, the Faculty Senate and the administration have made an effort to align the work of Faculty Senate councils with administrative councils in order to enhance the work we both do for the university at large. Our recent example of that work we do together is from the Faculty Council on University Relations and President Emmert. The Faculty Council on University Relations has developed new policies on the awarding of honorary degrees and President Emmert has announced that the nomination process for awarding these honorary degrees will run through the Faculty council on University Relations. Such honorary degrees can, in some instances at other institutions, represent points of disagreement between the faculty and the administration. In this instance, we have set the groundwork for a cooperative relation in awarding these degrees.

Other councils such as the Faculty Council on Instructional Quality may contribute information and research to important issues. As the recent report of the U.S. Department of Education's "The Future of Higher Education" indicated, there is considerable interest in assigning "value" to college and university educations through testing that looks something like the SAT. The Faculty Council on Instructional Quality is examining the assessment instruments the university already uses for better means of assessing a university education and is also examining some of the assessment instruments mentioned in the U.S. Department of Education report.

These are just two examples of the kind of work done in the Faculty Councils. As the year progresses, I will be reporting to you on the work of some of the other Councils, as well as the work of some of the special committees formed by the Senate. Thank you for your time.