

Dan Luchtel, Chair
University of Washington Faculty Senate
Remarks at October 25, 2007 Faculty Senate Meeting

Good afternoon and welcome to the first Faculty Senate meeting of the 2007-2008 year. It looks like it will be busy year and I hope a productive year. I want to begin with some faculty issues that are priorities for me and I hope we will make some progress on these issues during the year.

Priority #1 is a restructured faculty salary policy. Last year's Chair, Gail Stygall, formed a Salary Committee to work on salary policy and by the end of the academic year, the Senate Executive Committee came close to passing legislation. But after an extended discussion and with President Emmert's input, it was decided to table further action. I am forming a new Senate Committee on Salary Policy to continue work on this issue with the goal that such a revised policy will satisfy the faculty, the administration, and the regents.

Priority #2 is improved childcare facilities at the University of Washington. The students have taken the lead on this issue and I urge the faculty to strongly support this effort. For faculty, childcare facilities have become a recruitment and retention issue. A hopeful indicator is that one of the items on the State Supplemental Budget Request that the administration will be submitting to the State Legislature is expanded access to childcare.

Priority #3 is a review of the Faculty Grievance Procedure. The problem here may not be the procedure itself but faculty not knowing what needs to be done before filing a grievance. What may be the most useful would be the preparation of something like a *Best Practices* or a *Frequently Asked Questions* document that would be available online on the Faculty Senate website to help faculty understand grievance procedures, who to talk to, and the pros and cons of pursuing such a process.

Priority #4 is the appointment of a faculty member to the Board of Regents. J.W. Harrington, the Faculty Legislative Representative, will do the heavy lifting on this one. For the faculty, this is an issue about having a seat at the table. A bill was introduced during the last session of the State Legislature to appoint a faculty member to the Board of Regents. It died in committee but a compromise bill will be resubmitted this year.

Priority #5 is to begin a discussion about the structure of the Senate and the SEC, and possible ways to modify these bodies to stimulate more engaged input and debate by Senators. More on this in future Senate meetings.

Other issues will come up during the year, particularly those coming from the Faculty Councils. I have talked with the chairs of each of the fourteen Faculty Councils to discuss progress made last year and what the chairs want to accomplish this year. They will have plenty of issues to bring forward.

I have also talked with all of the Group Representatives and they likewise have issues that they would like to bring to the table. For example, an issue concerned with installation of seat belts in University-operated buses has recently generated notable support from Senators in the Medical School.