

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Room 142, Gerberding Hall
2:30 p.m., Monday, 3 May 2004

Present: Senate Chair Wadden; President Huntsman; Group Representatives, Stecher-Hansen (I), Pace (II), Buck (IV), Gile (V), Tanimoto (VI), Johnson (VII), Scheuer (VII); Secretary of the Faculty Vaughn; Faculty Council Chairs Plumb (FCAS), O'Neill (FCFA), Brandt (FCRIB), Kiyak (FCR), Schwartz and Pace (FCSA), Schaufelberger (FCUFS), Killien (FCTCP), Martin (FCUL); Special Committee Chair Krieger-Brockett (SCFW) Acting Provost Thorud, Assistant to the President Niccolls

Absent: Vice Chair Heath*; Group Representatives, Swanson (III), Lovell (VIII)*; UW Faculty Council Chairs Erdly (FCEO), Gillis-Bridges (FCET)*, Carline (FCIQ)*, Seifer (FCUR)*; Faculty Legislative Representative Stygall*, UW Bothell Representative Krishnamurthy*; UW Tacoma Representative Kalton*; ASUW Representative Goodnight, GPSS Representative Harrison

* -excused

Guest: Associate Vice President, Norman Arkans, Director of Admissions Philip Ballinger, Dean and Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education George Bridges, Vice Chair Elect Ashley Emery, Professor Daniel Luchtel (FCFA), Professor Brent Stewart (FCR), Assistant Vice President Enrollment Services Tim Washburn.

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was **approved**, as amended.

Approval of the Minutes

Approved.

Opening Remarks of the Chair – Douglas Wadden, Faculty Senate Chair

After outlining the agenda, Wadden brought the body up-to-date on the progress of the Tri-Campus Taskforce, noting that a report is expected in the fall.

Report from the President – Lee Huntsman

Referring to recent news coverage of the University, Huntsman stated that it is important to focus on the "reality on the ground." He believes that the essential failures have now been fixed, and the athletic program is moving forward. The same is true of the medical billing case, which has been underway for five years. There are two parts to the settlement: the actual settlement, and a corporate integrity agreement that addresses the auditing practices that need to be in place. The federal prosecutor has endorsed the changes that have been made by the University, and not required any additional measures.

Looking forward, preparations are going forward for planning the 2005-2007 budgets. They anticipate no budget cuts, modest compensation increases and other enhancements. Given recent cutbacks, this is viewed as a victory. Another issue has been the management of enrollments across all three campuses. The Provost's office has been examining these issues, and a committee has been examining tuition and financial aid issues. These efforts are in anticipation of expected conversations in the legislature about these topics. Conversations regarding the performance contracts have begun with the Governor's office. This has been part of a larger conversation about priorities in government (POG) that the Governor has initiated. Conversations also continue with WSU about performance contracts and ways to link each university's biennial budget requests.

Internally, the University is involved in the first round of collective bargaining for a number of groups. Two priorities are to go through the process in a constructive manner and to signal to classified employees how much we value them; he would like to avoid polarization. In closing, he reminded people of the leadership searches that are underway: Athletic Director, Graduate School Dean, Tacoma Chancellor, and Business School Dean. The last is a little worrisome because of the rapidly changing terrain in the business school scene, and the large number of vacancies at many business schools.

Huntsman acknowledged that this will be the last meeting with this group, and thanked and saluted the members and leadership for their hard work.

Academic Advising and Athletes – George Bridges, Dean, Undergraduate Education

After providing some background, Bridges described the programs that are available for academic support of student athletes. There are 700 plus students in the program, and the vast majority have admirable grade-points. Forty to fifty individuals, however, struggle academically despite the many important qualities they bring to the University. The support program is housed in the Athletic Department and is staffed by about eighty counselors and others who work with the coaches and athletes to develop a program. Over the last eight or nine years there have been real improvements, most notably in the football program where the average GPA has gone up. This spring there are five people on probation, only one of them a football player.

Nonetheless, coaches continue to recruit students who face academic challenges. This must be viewed in the context of the overall increase in the academic preparation of the general undergraduate student body. This means that the disparity in preparation becomes greater. Second, the nature of undergraduate education is changing. Referring to a chart, Bridges noted a growing emphasis on international studies and an expectation for intense research and public service experiences. These projects can take up to ten hours per week. This represents an additional challenge for athletes because their schedules often do not permit these kinds of experiences. When added to recently proposed NCAA regulations for academic progress, we face a very challenging situation especially for students who are not well prepared when they enter. He ended by noting that the current head of athletic academic services, Stan Chernicoff (Geology), is a faculty member, a change from the previous practice of hiring a professional staff person for this position.

Questions/

1. Schwartz (Co-Chair, FCSA) noted that not all student athletes want to take part in some of these efforts because of their location on main campus. Bridges noted that the advising was moved to CLUE in Mary Gates Hall, and that it has posed some problems for athletes.

This may be alleviated when renovations to the Shell House are completed. He also does not sense that the dissatisfaction is that widely spread.

2. Kiyak (Chair, FCR) asked about who establishes the criteria by which we measure academic excellence by participation in programs such as research or international travel. She suggested that we need to think creatively about ways in which opportunities could be scheduled for these students, perhaps by making greater use of the summers. Wadden added that we should be broad in our definition of research and international experience.

3. Stygall (Leg. Rep.) asked about how we handle financial support for those athletes who wish to go abroad. Bridges noted that this is a concern, and something that we need to think about. Huntsman observed that there is an office that finds financial support for students who wish to go abroad. There is also something called a "home campus" agreement that allows students to pay the regular UW tuition during their term abroad. But overall, he emphasized the need to think of all of these categories in the broadest sense.

4. Pace (Co-chair, FCSA) questioned whether all of the problems in the program have been addressed, noting recent conversations with students regarding compliance as the sole focus of concern in the program. Bridges responded that his sense is that the new personnel in the program are interested in these issues. Bridges also noted that he focuses on two things: structures and behaviors. He looks to these two factors to see if there is improvement. Huntsman agreed with these remarks, and noted ways in which we are looking forward. For example, this spring they are conducting a "culture review" to determine how the coaches and athletes think of themselves, and how integral they are to the rest of the institution: are they orphans or not? Wadden also addressed these issues, noting that we will be bringing the "best practices" reform package to the Senate in the fall. He urged members of the SEC to read the reports posted on the Senate webpage.

5. Tanimoto (Group VI) stated that many of these same issues discussed today arise for students who must work during the school year. Bridges agreed, and noted the efforts to raise scholarship funds for this group of students.

6. Martin (Chair, FCUL) noted that many of the discussions about problems in the program generally end up being about football, and inquired whether this is really where we are focusing. Bridges said that this may be true, but most football and basketball players do not have these kinds of problems. Martin noted that sports like crew and tennis draw from a higher socio-economic spectrum and do not have the same kinds of problems.

Report from the Senate Committee on Planning and Budgeting – Ross Heath, Chair; Vice Chair, Senate

In Vice Chair Heath's absence, Wadden summarized discussions of straw and capital budgets, which provide for a modest compensation increase without budget cuts.

Report on Legislative Affairs – Gail Stygall, Legislative Representative

Stygall noted recent meetings she has attended regarding access that took place at Tacoma and Bothell. Second, this Friday the Council on Faculty Representatives will be meeting, partially in preparation for the appointment of a faculty member to the Advisory Group. They will also address the fact that the Master Plan does not really mention faculty. Third, there is some possibility that Stygall may attend the AAUP Lobby Day in Washington D.C., and asked members for any ideas for the visit. Finally, she noted that this is an election year locally, not just nationally, and asked that faculty get involved.

Report from the Secretary of the Faculty – Lea Vaughn

Vaughn highlighted the following:

1. The need for volunteers to certify upcoming elections.
2. Preparation for the upcoming Group Rep election.
3. Increase in voter turnout from electronic voting.
4. A request for year-end reports from council chairs.

Nominations and Appointments

Approved as written. Wadden noted the need to work out nomination procedures for joint committees, especially the Undergraduate Council and Athletic Councils.

Reports from Councils and Committees

a. Faculty Council on Faculty Affairs – Kate O’Neill, Chair: Response to the Class C Resolution Regarding the Oversight of Funds from Non-state Sources Wadden, O’Neill and committee member Daniel Luchtel provided background regarding the report. The original Class C Resolution, passed in 24 October 2002, asked that the transparency of the University of Washington Physicians program be reviewed by FCFA in light of the Winn settlement. This was somewhat problematic because University of Washington Physicians (UWP) is an independent corporation, although all faculty are required to join the program. This program is taxed, and the funds are dispersed to the dean, department and individual faculty according to a formula. The Council felt their involvement was appropriate because of the requirement that faculty must join UWP. The most problematic aspect of the program, from FCFA point of view, is the lack of involvement of faculty below the level of departmental chair. The core conclusion of FCFA is that many faculty are therefore subject to management by a program in which they have little meaningful input. The council declined to take a position on the propriety of the Winn settlement, noting they do not have the necessary expertise or information to make a judgment. The draft report outlines ways in which the council believes the dean could give faculty a more active role in and understanding of the operation of the program. She also noted the very different culture in the medical school, both by virtue of its size as well as its funding. Providing more information about financial issues may improve the climate issues they became aware of during their research.

Discussion/

1. Wadden asked about the process for compiling some of the anecdotal information in the document. O’Neill referenced the cover letter that has been sent to Dean Paul Ramsey, requesting corrections and input on the draft. Martin (Chair, FCUL) asked some questions about this process also; O’Neill responded that she hopes any of the issues raised in the footnotes would be corrected.
2. Pace (Co-chair, FCSA) asked about the requests provided in the draft, and the type of process that is envisioned. Wadden expressed some concerns about the process that the council chose to follow in making these requests. O’Neill acknowledged Wadden’s concerns but pointed out the number of concerns that have been raised by individual medical school faculty in the course of compiling their reports. There is a wide divergence of opinion about how the Senate should proceed on this issue. She added that this is an important issue of faculty governance, and felt that this process would be healthier for the faculty by the council’s letter to Dr. Ramsey encouraging an open and transparent response.

b. Faculty Council on Academic Standards – Carolyn Plumb, Chair: Presentation of Transfer Admissions Policy and Procedures by Tim Washburn, Ass’t Vice President for Enrollment Services

Referring to an exhibit attached to the minutes, Plumb and Washburn presented a report on the enrollment agreements regarding transfer students. Plumb noted that the process of developing the new policy was a very collaborative one, involving both faculty and administrators. The proposed change does not require amendment of the University Handbook. After explaining the background that led to this change, Washburn described the new comprehensive process. One paramount concern was to maintain and enhance diversity. He believes that this new process will allow more attention to be paid to this factor, and that this is consistent with the Supreme Court's decision in Grutter. Another problem that confronted the committee was that of deferred admissions given the over-enrollment problems.

The new plan has several important aspects:

- a. Review for those who are denied a specified competitive major
- b. Priorities given to residents with a specified number of credits
- c. Imbuing the selection process with faculty values
- d. A comprehensive review process in which the file is
 1. read by two readers who are randomly assigned files
 2. assessments are made of academic abilities and goals, and personal qualities
 3. ranked on a scale of five denominators of quality: exceptional, strong, adequate, marginal, weak

This will lead to a final admission recommendation. They anticipate seeking faculty help in developing the norming process so that assessment is consistent.

Discussion/

1. Pace (Co-chair, FCSA) asked about how the programs that use competitive admissions compare to other universities, and why these are not reconciled. Washburn noted that he has met with the Engineering School twice about this process.
2. This process will not eliminate the discrimination that occurs to resident students who attempt to transfer back from out of state colleges because of the lack of spaces.

Meeting Calendar for Academic Year 2004-2005

Approved.

Announcements

The Stanley Fish lecture on campus is cancelled.

New Business

- a. The agenda for the 13 May 2004 Faculty Senate meeting was **approved**.
- b. Class C Resolution Concerning Collective Bargaining. **Approved** for forwarding to the Faculty Senate.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 4:43 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY: Lea B. Vaughn, Secretary of the Faculty

APPROVED BY: Douglas Wadden, Chair, Faculty Senate