UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON FACULTY AFFAIRS

{NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2004 MINUTES COMBINED}

The Faculty Council on Faculty Affairs met on November 30, at 1:00 p.m., in 36 Gerberding Hall and on December 7, 2004, at 1:00 p.m., in 26 Gerberding Hall. Chair Dan Luchtel called the meetings to order at 1:05 p.m.

Synopsis:
1. Minutes
2. Interviews/discussion of Winn affair.

Minutes
The minutes of the last meeting were approved, with one correction.

Interview/discussion of Winn affair
In response to a Class C Resolution passed by the Faculty Senate, Faculty Affairs has been looking into the Winn/Couser Medicare billing investigation and subsequent fines in the Medical School. Because the voice of the faculty has been lacking in this matter, FCFA meetings on 11/30/04 and 12/7/04 were devoted to interviews with faculty from the School of Medicine. The following questions and issues were identified:

• Given the scope of the problem and the size of the financial settlement ($35 million), why has no one in a position of leadership in the University administration stepped down or resigned?

• Why were the fines of Professors William Couser and Richard Winn paid by the University of Washington when a long standing memo from Dean Paul Ramsey to the faculty clearly stated that individual faculty were themselves financially responsible for the accuracy of their Medicare/Medicaid billing?

• Why was a $3.5 million settlement reached with Prof. Winn? While it has been publicly stated that this was to get the situation behind us and to move on, it appears neither ethical nor moral.

• In the Division of Nephrology, why was Associate Professor Stewart Shankland appointed Division Head as a successor to William Couser over the objections of most senior faculty in the Division, particularly when strong outside candidates had applied?

At the suggestion of the Council, Luchtel will also try to invite Med School faculty members who have no complaints or concerns about the settlement to visit FCFA, to give a balanced view of the situation. Cheryl Cameron advised the Council that Dean Ramsey is now under a five-year review that should be finished by the end of Winter Quarter. It may be that the review committee will want to hear from FCFA.

The meetings were adjourned at 2:30 p.m. Minutes by Linda Fullerton, Recorder.

Present 11/30: Hadjimichalikis, Hildebrandt, Kolko, Luchtel, Scheuer, Sjavik, Cameron, Blumenthal, Mandoli, Parks, Roy
Absent 11/30: Ceccarelli, Demorest, Graubard, Janes, Kirtley, Lydon-Rochelle, Wilson, Fabien, Walker, Johnson, Vaughn, Stygall

Present 12/07: Graubard, Hadjimichalikis, Hildebrandt, Kolko, Luchtel, Scheuer, Sjavik, Wilson, Cameron, Blumenthal, Mandoli, Parks, Roy, Vaughn
Absent 12/07: Ceccarelli, Demorest, Janes, Kirtley, Lydon-Rochelle, Fabien, Walker, Johnson, Stygall