Meeting Synopsis:

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions
3. Council Chair Vacancy
4. Membership of the Council
5. Review of the Minutes from May 13th and June 10th
6. Good of the Order
7. Adjourn

1) Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Marcia Killien, Secretary of the Faculty, at 12:40.

2) Introductions
Members introduced themselves to the council.

3) Council Chair Vacancy
The position of council chair is currently vacant which is creating a problem for the council. Several individuals have been approached to chair the council, but for various reasons nobody has volunteered. Discussion ensued regarding potential agenda items since it does not appear that any unfinished business have been carried over from last year.

Killien discussed the recruitment process for identifying new members and chairs. The Secretary’s Office sent out a survey to identify people interested in serving on councils and has been following up with faculty who expressed interest in FCWA.

Killien explained that the role of the chair is to set the agenda and identify issues for the council to address, and if there is no chair then it will be difficult to develop an agenda. Killien explained that her office will send out a “call for agenda items” prior to upcoming meetings to determine if there are any issues for discussion. If no agenda items are received then the meeting will be cancelled since there would be no reason to meet. Killien explained that this has happened to councils in the past when there was a slow-down during the year.

The council discussed strategies on how to recruit new members who would be willing to chair. A call for volunteers could be sent to department deans, elected faculty chairs and/or the entire voting faculty. Additionally, the council could target particular departments that are not currently represented on the council.

4) Membership of the Council
Susan Neff, past-ombud for the university, was very active in the council and expressed interest in participating this year. Discussion ensued. Neff could only participate as a regularly invited guest since she would not have an official appointment. However, council meetings are not open to the community, and since Neff is no longer connected with the university she does not have standing to participate as a
regular guest. A comment was made that Neff is eligible to serve as an ex-officio member representing the UW Retirement Association (UWRA) since she is now retired. This would be an appropriate way for her to serve on the council and may be an ideal way for Neff to participate. Killien will approach Neff to determine if she is a member of UWRA. If she qualifies, Neff will have to follow up with UWRA to request that she be nominated to FCWA.

During the last council meeting there was a discussion of having the new university ombud, Chuck Sloan, participate on the council. Discussion ensued. Unfortunately, there is no mechanism for Sloan to participate. This is a delicate matter for the ombud position because they are supposed to take a neutral position on all issues and make sure that do not appear to be affiliated with a particular group. Killien also stressed the importance in limiting regularly-invited guests to council meetings. A better idea would to invite Sloan to present on a particular issue that involves his office rather than have him participate on a regular basis. A comment was made that Neff’s insight to the council was very helpful in the past, and it would be good to get Sloan’s perspectives on how his office addresses issues that concern women.

Discussion moved back to identifying a chair and address outstanding agenda items. Several names were suggested that would require a follow up. Also, there are faculty members at UW Tacoma who have leadership potential and could be effective at serving as chair. A comment was made that there were some activities from last year that are still outstanding, such as childcare issues and Faculty Matters Memos. Discussion ensued. The council also played an influential role in the non-ladder faculty survey.

5) Review of the Minutes from May 13th and June 10th
The minutes from May 13th and June 10th were not approved due to lack of quorum.

6) Good of the Order
The council discussed potential agenda items for the upcoming academic year. FCWA could address women in academia and their experience within the tenure and promotion process. It was suggested that FCWA conduct a small study to identify trends across the academic community. Additionally, it would be nice to identify mentoring programs that assist women as they pursue a career in academia. FCWA could also conduct a survey of women on campus to identify areas in which UW could improve services.

Members discussed ways in which FCWA could partner with other councils whose issues intersect with FCWA. For example, FCWA worked closely with the Faculty Council on Multicultural Affairs (FCMA) last year to pass legislation to create the undergraduate diversity graduation requirement. The new chair, Brett Rubio, has been on the council for two years and has expressed interest in building relationships with other councils.

Fraga suggested that FCWA align its activities with issues that are progressing in the Faculty Senate. If FCWA aligns its activities at the right time the council will have more opportunities to participate on issues that will impact faculty. Examples include intellectual property, online degrees, faculty salary policy and lecturer appointments. Discussion ensued. If FCWA participates in faculty salary policy the council could coordinate with UW Human Resources to produce the data they need. A comment was made that the representation of women in lecturer appointments is quite high and should be a matter of concern for the council.
Mescher explained that she was recently appointed as a member of the Faculty Council on University Facilities and Services (FCUFS) and will work to address the issue of onsite childcare. In order to make a compelling argument for onsite childcare FCWA could feed report data to FCUFS to ensure the council has the information to seriously address the issue. Mescher mentioned that she presented a comparative analysis to FCUFS last year and hopes to be a voice of onsite childcare this year.

Mehravari brought to the council’s attention a report called “Reflections of Women in Science”. The report is a compilation of information on women faculty members from around the nation. Council members expressed interest in the report and Mehravari will forward the report to the council.

7) Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned by acting-Chair Mescher at 1:30 p.m.

Minutes by Grayson Court, Faculty Council Support Analyst. gcourt@uw.edu

Present: Faculty: Mescher (acting-Chair), Cooke, Edwards (via conference phone)  
President’s Designee: Fraga  
Ex-Officio Reps: Mehravari  
Guests: Marcia Killien

Absent: Faculty: Anzai, Evans, Fialkow, Fisher (sabbatical)  
Ex-Officio Reps: Agee, Jennerich