Call to Order and Attendance

Committee Chair Regent Jaech called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Jaech (Chair), Brown, Rice, Riojas, and Simon
Other Regents Present: Ayer, Blake, Harrell, Shanahan, and Smith

Approval of Minutes

Regent Jaech announced that, hearing no objections, the minutes from the Committee meeting on November 13, 2014, were approved, as distributed.

Academic and Administrative Appointments (Action) (Item no. A–1)

With no additional comments from Provost Cauce, Regent Rice moved, Regent Simon seconded, and the Committee voted to approve, the academic and administrative appointments as presented. Regent Brown abstained.

Introduction of New Leadership: Vice Provost for Educational Outreach (Information only) (Item no. A–2)

Provost Cauce introduced Rovy Branon, Vice Provost for Educational Outreach, who said he was honored to be at University of Washington where he oversees a large range of educational outreach programs serving 49,000 students. Regents asked Vice Provost Branon about Educational Outreach’s relationship to industry and “competency based education.” He was also asked how he will measure success at Educational Outreach. He believes his unit serves an exponential number of “learners” and offers high quality degrees and certificates. He believes UW has an aging technology infrastructure and hopes to build better platforms over the next five years. He also commented on the physical spaces his unit uses and is beginning a strategic planning process with his senior leaders to explore solutions to the challenges they face.

Regents requested a future item providing a more in-depth look at educational outreach.

College of Arts and Sciences – Reorganization of the Department of Romance Languages creating the Departments of Italian and French Studies and Spanish and Portuguese Studies (Action) (Item no. A–3)

Michael Shapiro, Professor and Divisional Dean for the Humanities, College of Arts and Sciences; Richard Watts, Associate Professor and Chair, Division of French and Italian Studies; and Ana M. Gomez-Bravo, Professor and Chair, Division of Spanish and Portuguese Studies; presented the case for changing two divisions into departments assuring the Committee that there are no costs associated with this action, no need for additional staff or space, and no effects on
curriculum. In answer to a question, they said the historical data for each division would be disaggregated moving forward, but not retrospectively.

Regent Simon moved, Regent Rice seconded, and the Committee voted to approve, the reorganization of the Department of Romance Languages, as presented.

Undergraduate Satisfaction and the UW Experience (Information only) (Item no. A–4)

Ed Taylor, Dean and Vice Provost of Undergraduate Academic Affairs, provided an overview of a satisfaction survey administered to undergraduate students on the Seattle campus, as part of the Student Experience in the Research University Association of American Universities (SERU-AAU) Consortium. The survey had 100 items, took about 20-25 minutes to complete, and received a 26% response rate. Six questions directly addressed satisfaction and formed the core items.

Jason Johnson, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs, answered questions from Regents about student surveys at UW Bothell and Tacoma. Undergrad Academic Affairs plans to expand the survey in the future. Regents inquired about satisfaction across various departments and majors. The data has not been analyzed at that level yet. The data is available via a link included in the Board item.

Provost Cauce referenced a study conducted in 2000 and hoped the results could be compared to the current study.

Regent Rice asked about a possible multiplier effect of dissatisfied students, and Regents discussed if the responses were representative of those who didn’t take the survey.

There are a number of initiatives underway to address student satisfaction and the concerns of the survey. These are listed in the item. Regents requested a subsequent report to the Board with more detail on the initiatives, including outcomes. Regents would also like to know more about how UW compares with peer institutions and possibly with private schools. Regent Brown stressed affordability as a predictor of satisfaction. She received an affirmative reply to her question about student involvement on the task forces.

Another survey is planned in the spring, ideally with an increase in the participation rate. Regents discussed incentives to take the survey, survey fatigue, and other ways to assess satisfaction.

Diversity Focus on Student Professional Development Opportunities (Information only) (Item no. A–5)

Sheila Edwards Lange, Vice President for Minority Affairs and Vice Provost for Diversity, introduced the item which addressed specialized programs to lower the graduation gap for underrepresented students. Dave Eaton, Dean and Vice Provost of the Graduate School, described some core programs, including the Graduate Opportunities & Minority Achievement Program (GO-MAP). Student presenters described their experiences, challenges, and successes and answered questions from Regents.

Student Presenters:
- Ismael Fajardo, doctoral student, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
- Jesus Martinez-Gomez, senior, Biology
• Keon Vereen, doctoral student, William E. Boeing Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics
• Riabelle Vivas, masters student, School of Social Work

Adjourn

Hearing no other business, Regent Jaech adjourned the Academic and Student Affairs Committee at 10:00 a.m.

Approved at the meeting of the Committee on February 12, 2015.