VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Annual Recommendations from the Provost Advisory Committee for Students (PACS)

For information only.

BACKGROUND

The Provost Advisory Committee for Students (PACS) would like to present the following recommendations to the Board of Regents:

On the International Student Fee

PACS firmly believes that having international students at the UW brings a special measure of diversity to the campus community and is part of a world-class education. PACS would like to recognize the vital contributions of international students to our UW community and the diverse perspectives they bring to our educational experiences.

We are, however, aware that some international students require extra services in order to succeed in their education at the UW, as well as to comply with Department of Homeland Security reporting requirements. These services are important, yet international students are required to pay for them on their own. Other students who require the services of the Center for Learning and Undergraduate Enrichment (CLUE) or the D Center do not bear the burden of those costs alone, but instead share the expense with the rest of the student body. Given that international students also do not receive financial aid, this fee is an added burden to a select group of students.

PACS believes that having international students on campus is worth more than the sum of their service costs, and those groups likely to require extra services above and beyond what the university already provides are likely to be those groups that add to the diversity of the student population. Therefore, PACS recommends that the costs associated with those services should be collectively born rather than directed only upon international students.

On Capital Projects

Students strongly believe that tuition dollars should not be included as part of the financial strategy of funding capital projects on the University of Washington’s three
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The University of Washington should exercise extensive lobbying and advocacy efforts to make clear to the Washington State legislature the University’s capital needs, and prioritize projects with least potential for alternative sources of funding. Unless exhaustive efforts to prioritize state funding requests for capital projects on the part of UW External Relations and the administration over no fewer than three biennium budgetary legislative sessions have been exercised, it is not justifiable to use student tuition dollars to fund such projects.

In the case that lobbying efforts are unsuccessful in obtaining state funds for capital projects deemed essential by the Board of Regents, private donations should be actively pursued and advancement efforts of the UW administration should prioritize such projects with the intention of obtaining full funding through private investments.

The situation may arise where both state and private investments have been publicly pursued to secure funding for essential capital projects. If such efforts have been deemed satisfactory by PACS and either ASUW and GPSS, ASUWT, or ASUWB, and the UW administration feel that the use of student tuition dollars is the only way to finance such projects, the Office of Planning and Budgeting (OPB) shall be required to obtain approval by two consecutive administrations of all bodies of campus-appropriate student governments, two consecutive administrations of PACS, and approval at three consecutive meetings of the Board of Regents in order for such a project to proceed.

On Mandatory Practicum Hours

The Social Work Student Union (SWSU) has informed PACS that the working conditions and expectations for required practicum hours at sites affiliated with the UW School of Social Work may be in violation of the Federal Labor Standards Act (FLSA). As such, PACS requests that the university:

1. Conduct an internal investigation regarding all program requirements with unpaid labor components at the University of Washington, both with or without academic credit. The goal of this is to collect data on the following points:
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a. Document and characterize programs whose educational requirements include unpaid practicum hours beyond those required for national professional accreditation;

b. Quality of educational experience and compliance with the Federal Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

2. Investigate required practicum sites at the School of Social Work by the following actions:

a. Conduct a third party audit of the practicum sites used by the School of Social Work to ensure FLSA compliance.

b. Direct OPB to investigate the economic impact of exempting students from paying for credit hours for the purposes of fulfilling mandatory practicum requirements.

On the Student Parent Resource Center

The Services and Activities Fee Committee (SAF) currently funds the Student Parent Resource Center. SAF fees allocated to the Student Parent Resource Center fund vouchers that cover the cost of childcare for 300 students. The Student Parent Resource Center was one of the first units funded by SAF in the 1970’s; however, its current services and offerings fall much more under the scope of the obligations of the University. It is even a line item in Financial Aid, although it is unfunded. PACS and the SAF committee believe this service is more appropriately funded by the administration.

Therefore, the Provost Advisory Committee for Students request that the University of Washington allocate $1.5 million from the Provost Reinvestment Funds for the FY 2016 to fund the Student Parent Resource Center. Over the next two fiscal years, the UW administration should work with students to specify a permanent funding stream.

We recognize that this shift in funding does not lead to an increase in net services provided. Nonetheless, by setting the groundwork for further expansion from the administration, we believe the administration would be taking a good first step toward increasing access to childcare at the University of Washington.

In addition, with congressional budgets proposing caps to student fee increases and the commitment to fair student wages in light of the minimum wage increases, SAF may not have raising fees as a revenue source to cover them and might be forced to cut programs.
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Students strongly support expanding child care access while simultaneously alleviating the burden of the minimum wage increases to SAF. The administration absorbing the cost of the Student Parent Resource Center would enable the SAF committee to increases wages while avoiding negative impact on students through either a fee increase or decrease in services.

On the Minimum Wage

We support the move to a $15 per hour minimum wage and encourage the Board of Regents to work on a comprehensive plan with students, staff, and faculty.

Attachment
Student Presenters’ Biographical Information
Annual Recommendations from the
Provost Advisory Committee for Students (PACS)

Student Presenters’ Biographical Information

Alice B. Popejoy is President of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS), representing the graduate and professional student body of the University of Washington, Seattle. She is also a third-year PhD student in Public Health Genetics at the University of Washington, Seattle and concurrently pursuing a Certificate in Statistical Genetics. Alice received her Bachelor of Arts from Hamilton College in 2009 with a double-major in Biology and French, and spent one year living in Paris. After receiving her undergraduate degree, Alice worked for U.S. House Representative Matsui in Congress and served as the first Public Policy Fellow at the Association for Women in Science (AWIS) in Washington, DC for two years. Her academic and professional interests lie in the intersection of biological light receptors, genomic research, bioethics and public health initiatives combined with a passion for science communication and effective advocacy. In her spare time, Alice teaches parkour in Seattle, spends time exploring the great outdoors, and enjoys visiting her friends and family in her home state of California.

Emma van Inwegen is the Chair of the Provost Advisory Committee for Students (PACS) and a graduating senior majoring in mathematics and economics. She is also a Research Assistant at the Evans School of Public Affairs doing price collection and data analysis on a project analyzing the effects of Seattle’s minimum wage increases. This is her third year on PACS, and last year she served on the Board of Directors for the Associated Students of the University of Washington (ASUW) as the Finance and Budget Director. Emma originally hails from New Jersey, and in her spare time can be found hiking and singing covers of jazz, musical theater, and glam rock songs to her cat.
Aaron Vetter is the GPSS University Affairs Director. He received his bachelor's degree in political science and Spanish from the University of Washington in 2012 and will complete his master of public administration from the Evans School of Public Affairs this June. His professional experience includes donor relations and development in the nonprofit sector, survey research and program planning for the City of Seattle, and now policy and advocacy work for the Graduate and Professional Student Senate. Academically, his focus largely centers on the increasingly more common occurrence of partnerships between the public and private sectors as well as policy messaging and communication strategies.