STANDING COMMITTEES

Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Introduction of New Leadership: Athletic Director

INFORMATION

For information only.

BACKGROUND

In January 2016, President Ana Mari Cauce convened a search committee with the charge of identifying and recommending candidates for the position of Athletic Director.

The search committee identified several finalists for campus visits. After those visits, Jennifer Cohen was offered the position of Athletic Director for the University of Washington effective June 1, 2016.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Jennifer Cohen has been with the UW for 18 years and for much of that time has overseen the athletic department’s fundraising efforts. In recent years, the football and baseball programs also reported directly to her. A native of Tacoma, she joined the athletic department staff in 1998 as an assistant director of development before moving to the university's central development office to focus on fundraising efforts on behalf of the office of undergraduate education. She also
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spent time with the UW's regional gifts program before returning to athletics to oversee the department's major gifts program.

Cohen and her team led the “Drive for Husky Stadium” campaign, in which the department raised over $50 million in gifts for the renovation of Husky Stadium, which was completed in August 2013. Cohen has also led development efforts for a number of other initiatives, including the renovation of Hec Edmundson Pavilion and the Conibear Shellhouse, the construction of the Dempsey Indoor Practice Facility, the Husky Legends Center, Husky Golf Center and various scholarship endowments.

A 1991 graduate of San Diego State University, Cohen earned her master's degree in physical education with an emphasis in sports administration, from Pacific Lutheran University in 1994. Her professional experience includes a variety of roles in intercollegiate athletics administration at Pacific Lutheran, the University of Puget Sound and Texas Tech University. She and her husband, Bill, are the parents of two sons, Tyson and Dylan.