

**University of Puget Sound
Faculty Meeting Minutes
January 29, 2007**

1. President Thomas called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m. Twenty-five voting members of the faculty were present by 4:17 p.m.

2. Minutes of the October 30, 2006 Faculty Meeting were approved as posted.

3. In response to President Thomas' call for announcements, David Droge appealed to faculty interested in writing 600-800 word essays for the faculty guest column of *The Trail* to contact him. Julie Neff-Lippman announced that Nancy Sommers of Harvard University would be on campus February 9, 2007 to conduct two workshops with faculty on teaching writing across the disciplines. Faculty interested in attending were invited to contact Julie.

4. President Thomas cited recent noteworthy accomplishments, including our high ranking among colleges in terms of (1) the number of our students who serve in the Peace Corps, (2) the number of Fulbrights awarded to last year's graduates (including two research Fulbrights), and (3) the friendliness of our campus toward lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

President Thomas reported that the cabinet has received a report from the Diversity Planning Task Force, commissioned last year to address diversity goals within the university's strategic plan. He said he was pleased by the report and the recommendations in it and that we would be hearing more about it soon.

President Thomas said he would be traveling widely in the weeks ahead. Some of the travel involves the last of the strategic plan rollouts for alumni clubs in various cities, and some of the travel is for the purpose of pre-solicitation for the upcoming capital campaign. He reported that this has been a good year for fundraising. He said that vacant staff positions in the development office were being filled in preparation for the campaign.

President Thomas reported that the Board would meet in two weeks. Their meetings would include a workshop on the university's communications strategies for the strategic plan and comprehensive capital campaign. He said the college had already received six CASE awards for the communications efforts on behalf of the university this year.

President Thomas then introduced our new Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students, Mike Segawa, recently promoted from Associate Dean of Students. Dean Segawa received a warm round of applause.

5. Academic Vice President Kristine Bartanen reported that two of the four scheduled discussions with faculty on the international areas of the strategic plan had already been held.

She invited faculty who wish to participate in the two remaining discussions to contact Tammie Dillow.

She said that the university would be hosting a conference March 23-25, 2007 on learning spaces and the ways spaces and technology facilitate good education in liberal arts colleges. People would be attending from more than twenty colleges across the nation. The conference is sponsored by Project Kaleidoscope, the Council on Independent Colleges, and the National Institute on Technology in Liberal Education. She asked faculty interested in being included to contact her.

Dean Bartanen said that, in connection with the upcoming retirements of John Finney and Carrie Washburn, she has been thinking of how to go forward and how to do the work even better. She said her plan is to appoint two new associate deans from the faculty, one to begin in July and one in December.

Suzanne Holland asked what all these deans would be doing. Dean Bartanen responded that she plans to reorganize responsibilities and add new ones, such as support for civic engagement, race and pedagogy, and faculty grants.

6. Faculty Senate Chair Barry Anton reported that the Faculty Senate has been working hard and is about to address the most challenging problem ever tackled by the senate: how to enhance attendance at faculty meetings.

7. We turned then to the first reading of a proposed amendment to V.6.C.a. of the Faculty Bylaws. The proposal was to replace the words “tenure-line” with the word “tenured” in the first paragraph in the section on membership of the Faculty Advancement Committee (FAC). Bill Haltom read aloud the current language and the revised language.

Current language: “Membership. The Committee shall consist of the Dean of the University (ex officio) and five tenure-line Faculty members.”

Proposed language: “Membership. The Committee shall consist of the Dean of the University (ex officio) and five tenured Faculty members.”

Faculty Senate Chair Anton said the senate had reviewed the Faculty Bylaws and was bringing this proposal forward to the full faculty as a housekeeping item.

Suzanne Barnett said she had no objection to the proposal but asked what prompted it, since FAC members have been tenured faculty as a matter of tradition. Juli McGruder pointed out that one recent FAC member was not tenured. Nancy Bristow said that senators had engaged in heated discussion about this proposal and that it should be considered thoughtfully because it does eliminate an option for junior colleagues. Christine Kline added that the proposal raises the question of access to a powerful committee. She argued that some untenured faculty are seasoned and could offer much to the FAC. Anton suggested we read past Faculty Senate meeting minutes for the context of what led to the proposal.

8. We then had the first reading of a proposed amendment to II.2. of the Faculty Bylaws. Again, Haltom read the proposal, which was to replace the current language (see below) with revised language (see below):

Current language:

Sec. 2. **Responsibilities of the Faculty.** The Faculty shall create and maintain a superior academic climate in the University. To this end, the Faculty shall prescribe, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees, the graduate and undergraduate courses of study, the specific courses to be offered, the nature and requirements of graduate degrees to be conferred, the requirements for graduation and recommend all candidates for baccalaureate and advanced degrees and/or honors to the Board of Trustees, the standards of instruction, and the general rules and methods for the conduct of educational work of the University and any rules for the regulation of student publications, musical, dramatic and literary clubs, and other student affairs related to the academic life of the University.

Revised language:

Sec. 2. **Responsibilities of the Faculty.** The Faculty shall create and maintain a superior academic climate in the University. To this end, the Faculty shall contribute to the development of the University.

The Faculty shall establish the standards and methods of instruction and oversee how the educational work of the University is conducted. The standards of instruction are subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

The Faculty shall create the graduate and undergraduate courses of study in schools, departments, and programs. The Faculty shall approve the specific courses to be offered and establish the requirements for undergraduate and graduate degrees.

The Faculty's decisions regarding courses of study and requirements for degrees are subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

The Faculty shall recommend all candidates for baccalaureate degrees, advanced degrees, and honors-at-graduation to the Board of Trustees.

The Faculty shall advise students' media, including, but not limited to, newspapers, magazines, radio programs, video programs, and electronic publications, when such media are related to the academic and co-curricular life of the University. The Faculty shall advise students' artistic, dramatic, literary, and musical organizations, insofar as such organizations affect the academic and co-curricular life of the University.

Haltom said that, while the first bylaws proposal read today concerning FAC membership involved a conscious effort to change something, the purpose of this second proposal was to improve language, not to change anything substantive.

Barnett observed that “graduate and undergraduate courses of study” appear in that order in both the original and revised language. She suggested that, because we are primarily an undergraduate school, perhaps “graduate” and “undergraduate” should be reversed. McGruder, professor in a graduate program, responded, “it’s nice to be first for once before I retire.”

Droge asked if there was anything in the language that prohibited faculty from advising student groups that were not specifically mentioned in the language. Anton said the language did not preclude this. Haltom added that perhaps we should at some point add language saying faculty are free to participate in other student groups. President Thomas observed that there seemed to be in the proposal a change in diction from regulatory language to advisory language.

Holland asked when this proposal would come before us again and how many faculty needed to be present to vote on it. Dean Bartanen explained the bylaws amendment process. Three-fourths of those voting must vote for the change for it to be approved and there is no quorum requirement beyond those in attendance.

Holland suggested we should perhaps consider creating a quorum requirement as a means of encouraging more faculty to attend faculty meetings. Others responded that the effect of this might instead be that the faculty could never accomplish anything.

Ross Singleton argued that eliminating the last sentence in the original language seemed to be significant in that the proposed language was more limiting. He said that the broader interpretation of the original language would be lost and we should make sure this is what we want.

Barnett asked if the new language permitted faculty any role at all in terms of issues related to Greek rush, for example, which she recalled was debated in faculty meetings. She asked if the new language takes away any possibility of any faculty involvement in such activities of students. Droge recalled that the faculty vote on Greek rush was advisory to the board.

Singleton pointed out that the faculty has a Student Life Committee that does have some oversight of co-curricular activities, yet this revised language doesn’t reflect or provide for that. “What is the role of that committee in the context of this new language?” he asked.

Haltom agreed that Singleton raised an excellent question, but pointed out that the Student Life Committee was defined later in the bylaws and that generally anything that comes later “carries the day.” He said the proposed language change should do nothing to affect the Student Life Committee, and that there was no intention to do so.

President Thomas suggested that today’s discussion raised the question as to whether the proposal is in fact simply a housekeeping change or actually changes the role of the faculty in student life. He asked if we should ask the senate to consider this between now and the next faculty meeting. David Scott suggested that the senate also look at whether we really

mean to use the word “and” when we talk about “academic and co-curricular life,” because “and” is more limiting than “or” here.

We adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

John M. Finney
Secretary of the Faculty