

**University of Puget Sound
Faculty Meeting Minutes
March 31, 2003**

President Pierce called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. in McIntyre 103. Thirty-nine voting members of the faculty were present.

Minutes of the February 10, 2003 faculty meeting had not yet been distributed, so approval was deferred until the next meeting.

In response to President Pierce's call for announcements, David Tinsley invited us to attend the talk to be given Friday, April 4, 2003 by Turkish-German writer and journalist Zafer Senocak. The talk was scheduled for 3:00 p.m. in Wyatt 109 and would address issues of multiculturalism, integration issues that Turks in Germany face, and the role of Islamic minorities in United Europe.

President Pierce announced that Ron Thomas is in campus for several days this week and again in May and June. She also announced that the Gates Foundation turned down our proposal to fund the new science building, explaining that private colleges and university are not their priority. She said that we did recently receive a pledge of one million dollars for the new science building and that half of the amount has already been received.

Academic Vice President Terry Cooney had no report.

Faculty Senate Chair Hans Ostrom introduced the next two items on the agenda by saying that the Faculty Senate is working with Vice President Karen Goldstein to revise the new weapons policy. He said the Senate put the item on today's agenda to give faculty the chance to weigh in. Regarding the class schedule agenda item, Chair Ostrom said that the Faculty Senate approved a resolution to return to a Monday-Tuesday-Thursday-Friday (MTTF) schedule for classes meeting four times per week, to go into effect spring 2004. He said this item was on today's agenda to discuss why this is advantageous for faculty teaching the classes.

Chair Ostrom said that the main issue in the discussion of the new weapons policy in the context of campus safety has to do with search and seizure. President Pierce said that the policy pulls together several existing policies after last November's shooting incident on campus.

Ted Taranovski said he thought that the original draft of the weapons policy might do more harm than good and that it would not have prevented last November's incident. He said he applauded the Senate's work with Karen Goldstein to make sure policy does more good than harm.

In response to a comment about the new policy in terms of limiting liability, President Pierce asserted that its purpose is not to limit liability, only to improve safety.

We moved to a discussion of why faculty in the sciences and foreign languages prefer a class schedule allowing four-day-per-week classes to be taught MTTF. Chair Ostrom said the Senate's resolution to return to this would go into effect pending a June meeting with Dean Cooney to discuss space-phasing considerations in Thompson Hall. Dean Cooney said that the incremental gains of the current four-day schedule in maximizing efficient use of space are important as we contemplate increasing the number of faculty, but that the prospects for adding faculty are small in the short term. He said therefore that the incremental gains in space-use efficiency probably do not outweigh the interest expressed by faculty in the MTTF teaching option. He said that we do need to address phasing issues for the science building which may require even small, incremental gains; hence the June meeting

Bill Haltom asked what "phasing" means. Dean Cooney responded that certain rooms in Thompson Hall will be taken out of circulation as new construction proceeds and as Thompson is

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remodeled. Classes will need to be taught elsewhere during the construction period and we need to make sure we know where that can happen.

President Pierce said that when the trustees were considering our goals for the decade, they asked that we have efficient class scheduling so that we would not need to build new buildings in order to add new tenure-line faculty. She said that issue won't go away long term, but the state of the economy means we won't be able to go ahead adding new faculty as energetically as we would hoped.

David Tinsley said that the MTTF schedule fits what we want to do in certain foreign language classes "perfectly." He said that all of us have the same goal in terms of efficient use of space and that he was glad it appears it will work to allow interested faculty to use the MTTF teaching option for now.

Dean of Students Kris Bartanen gave a residential life update. She started by saying that some sixty or seventy students are being checked in on and helped to work through issues in connection with the recent death of one of our students. She said students have expressed appreciation for faculty acknowledgement that they are working through these issues and issues of war in Iraq. She said students strongly affected by the death may not get over it completely right away and may need support. She said it is good also to help students understand that it is okay to work on academic work and other activities and that there is no disrespect in that to someone who has died.

Dean Bartanen reported there have been more serious alcohol situations this year than last year. So far twelve students have been treated on campus for emergency alcohol poisoning and an additional seven have been hospitalized. She said these are very scary events. She said she appreciates faculty calling Student Affairs or Academic Advising to express concern about students who may be experiencing trouble and she asked us to continue doing that. She said this year there also have been more conduct violations involving alcohol and drugs, with a segment of students who demonstrate repeated disregard for university policies. Four students have been suspended, which is unusual. She said students bear responsibilities when living in a community and we can help by emphasizing that message as appropriate.

Dean Bartanen reminded us that one of our strategic goals is to become 75% residential. Our capacity is currently 65%, but we were only at 58% this year because of empty beds, including sixty on Union Avenue. She said that all fraternities were below the 90% minimum occupancy level this year and they have been asked to meet the requisite standards for next year. She said housing application numbers for next year look good so far. She asked that we encourage students, especially sophomores, to stay with campus housing process rather than opting out. She said we can guarantee campus housing for any student who wants it, something we haven't been able to do in the past. Dean Bartanen reported that more upper division campus residences will be using a model in which students are involved in establishing norms for their own living groups, something which should help to make living on campus more desirable. She added that housing contracts are, for the first time this year, binding on May 1 for all returning students.

Dean Bartanen reported that work on Project Ensemble (the Mellon Project) is going well and that she appreciates faculty involvement in the social justice, humanities, language and cultures, and other programs. She mentioned that there will be on-campus housing available this summer, with top priority given to students with summer research awards. Next priority goes to summer school students. She added that orientation review work continues, to make sure orientation meshes well with the new core curriculum.

We adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John M. Finney
Secretary of the Faculty