

**University of Puget Sound
Faculty Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2003**

President Pierce called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. in McIntyre 103. Thirty-nine voting members of the faculty were present.

Minutes of the February 10, 2003 and March 31, 2003 faculty meetings were approved as distributed.

There were no announcements.

President Pierce's report that we had currently 685 new freshmen deposited for fall 2003 was greeted by a round of appreciative applause for Vice President for Enrollment George Mills, who attended today's meeting. She said we were running ahead of last year in new transfer student numbers and that student retention continued to improve. She complimented the work of the new Student Alert Group (SAG) that grew out of the work of the Retention Committee. She said that SAG meets weekly to discuss student interventions for students of concern and this past year worked with 268 students. President Pierce asked us to continue reporting student alerts. She reported also that five of our graduating seniors have won teaching Fulbrights, as have two of last year's graduates, for a total of seven. She finished by reporting that we continue to make fund raising progress for the science building.

Academic Vice President Terry Cooney had no report except to say that higher student retention figures, combined with the shift to the new core, creates new points of stress and strain in the curriculum, and that he appreciates the way faculty are working with Associate Dean Bill Barry to adjust course enrollment limits, to add new freshman seminars, and to hire new visiting faculty as appropriate to prepare for the upcoming transitional year.

Faculty Senate Chair Hans Ostrom had no report.

President Pierce gave a brief history of the national and professional conditions that three years ago began to affect enrollments in our occupational therapy (OT) and physical therapy (PT) programs. She said that enrollment has returned to normal in PT, but not yet in OT. She described the three-year set of enrollment benchmarks the trustees approved. Then followed a general discussion of the situation. Faculty expressed their support of the OT program and President Pierce expressed administrative eagerness to respond positively to suggestions from OT faculty for resources that might help them meet the benchmarks. President Pierce said she had asked George Tomlin to propose things they think will be useful, keeping in mind that adding expense to the program drives up its cost. In response to a question about help faculty colleagues might provide, George Tomlin said that if OT faculty were to decide to propose an OTD degree, he would ask faculty to give the proposal fair, prompt, and open consideration so that such an offering could be a factor in next year's recruiting cycle.

At 5:02 p.m. President Pierce suggested that we postpone discussion of the master planning agenda item, but she did make a few remarks about planning. She said that the master plan we created some years ago was not expected to guide us forever, and that it was time to update it. She said Ron Thomas would ask the trustees to approve a new master planning process. She said Kris Bartanen would next fall give a full presentation on the Mellon-funded study of the implications of becoming even more residential than 75%. President Pierce also said we should consider reducing the size of the student body as an alternative to increasing the number of faculty as a means of reducing the student-faculty ratio. There is a variety of programmatic and financial implications of adding faculty, such as building more classrooms and offices. She said we can become more residential more quickly by reducing the size of the student body. She said she would regret not being a part of the discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

John M. Finney
Secretary of the Faculty