

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
Executive Council meeting
November 18, 2008
WCG 322
Meeting called to order 12:36 p.m.

In attendance: Michael Forman (Chair), Donald Chinn, Marjorie Dobratz, Ehsan H. Feroz, Johann Reusch, Mark Pendras, Janice Laakso, Sian Davies-Vollum, Beth Rushing, Pat Spakes, Bruce Balick, David Lovell

Absent: Gregory Benner (excused)

Meeting Synopsis

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of minutes
3. Conversation with UWS Senate
4. Adjournment

1. Agenda approved.

2. Meetings minutes approved.

3. Introduced David Lovell and Bruce Balick

Lovell (Senate Chair) said he was here to listen and to learn. He summarized the role of faculty governance in the organization of the University (including its role under Ch.26 in the Reorganization, Consolidation, and Elimination of Programs –RCEP—process). He also discussed the Senate’s role via it Committee on Planning and Budgeting (SCPB). SCPB meets weekly and is part of the formal discussion of budgets between faculty and administration. There is no provision for the representation of Tacoma and Bothell on this committee, but there is currently one Bothell faculty member on it.

Balick (Vice-Chair/Chair Elect) said he would and take over as Faculty Senate Chair and wanted to learn from this visit about the concerns and aspirations of UWT. He expressed concern with the attainability of the UWT Strategic plan and asked how Seattle might play a supportive role? He also offered that the current financial crisis might lead to opportunities

Forman then opened the meeting to comments and questions from the Executive Council.

Dobratz asked about how UW Seattle would respond when there were scarce resources. UWT is growth campus but there are scarce resources. Lovell thought that capital

projects would likely be funded because this is an interest of state government. He also mentioned that it might be useful to share concerns with J.W. Harrington, the current faculty legislative liaison.

Lovell also shared that the structural support and recruitment of faculty were likely to be the challenges over the next couple biennium. There would be sacrifices and serious decisions to be made. President Emmert would make suggestions about the principles governing budget decisions and faculty might differ. Faculty must prepare for the role they will take in this process.

Balick mentioned that cuts must be strategic. Balick noted that Spakes would be in charge of presenting these cuts to the University.

Lovell and Balick wanted to know about the priorities of UWT faculty. UW Senate will get a sense of where faculty needs to be.

Spakes noted that UWT cuts will come from its own separate state budget. UWT is historically funded separately from the UW budget, though Seattle initially manages the funds and takes about 10% for providing support to Tacoma. She also noted that Senate Planning and Budgeting considers faculty salaries. If Seattle gives a 3% pay raise then it comes out of Tacoma's budget. These are critical areas where UWT does not have autonomy.

Janice Laakso mentioned that the state legislature may give UWT FTEs without giving us the ability to hire faculty and staff. In her view, both the legislature and the UW must take into consideration the need for resources to handle this growth.

Spakes mentioned that the campus's share of reductions was important. Theoretically there could be situations where campuses are in competition for resources. If the state gives high demand enrollments, where does the spending go?

Lovell advised that an open discussion would take place at the Senate's December 4, 2008 meeting

In response to Ehsan H. Feroz question about inter-collegiate programs Lovell discussed at length the salaries and costs associated with inter-collegiate programs which have been very controversial. Funding for inter-collegiate athletic programs does not come from the general operating fund. Funds for scholarships for female athletes may come from the state, but mostly they come from gifts and revenue. The projected cost of renovating Husky Stadium is 150 million and the hospitality tax will likely be used to pay for much of this. Improvements must be made for safety. Questions about fundraising efforts for this should be asked of the Athletic director. There is also a faculty athletic representative that is appointed by President Emmert. This person has substantial authority over the academic integrity of the athletic program, and a number of changes have been made following reports sent to faculty senate and executive councils. Faculty will press this point. Faculty

will make sure people are not exploited and the commitment to an education remains a top priority.

Davis-Vollum asked about UWT's Environmental Sciences inclusion in the discussions about the proposed College of the Environment. One concern was joint appointments across campuses.

Lovell said that structurally, the joint appointment mechanism makes the most sense. Balick mentioned that Dr. Chaffee from Bothell is on the joint appointment across campuses.

There was also discussion about governance, the main business of the Executive Council according to Forman.

One long term issue at UWT has been the reorganization of some programs into Colleges and Schools. On this, Forman noted the following: The Dean of the Milgard School of Business is not a member of the Council of Deans. This is an issue for the structure of the University as a whole because deans of schools and colleges in Seattle are members of this council. It is also potentially an issue for the promotion and tenure process because, under the Code, a chair or director reports unit faculty recommendations to a dean, but at UWT the chair and the dean may be the same person. It is not clear, however, whether these concerns have played any role in the decision of the Office of the Executive Vice-Provost to hold up the process of reorganizing IAS as a school or college.

Forman also mentioned some organizational issues of Faculty Assembly. First, since every faculty member is a member of the Assembly and there are approximately 140 faculty members. It is rare that there is a quorum to conduct business and make decisions. Amendments to the handbook are even more difficult to enact because they require two-thirds participation.

Lovell said similar governance issues had affected the Faculty Senate. A process to revise its structure is already in motion. One goal is to make sure that all units are represented, but that the overall numbers are smaller.

Forman noted that in terms of governance there are issues of salary and staff support. Bothell seems to have more resources than Tacoma.

4. Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

