UW Senate Meeting - 3/1/2018

Please note that slides and other documents from this meeting can be found at <http://www.washington.edu/faculty/files/2014/05/senate_030118.pdf>  Official Minutes will be available after the next SEC meeting.

 Thaisa Way began with a discussion of UW”s commitment to community engagement and the launch of the Carnegie Community Engagement application. Community engagement is woven into the fabric of our community and the pursuit of the Carnegie classification is both a means and an end.  UW Bothell, UW Seattle, and UW Tacoma are applying separately, as required by the Foundation, and work group leaders from each campus meet monthly to collaborate.

There are many ways that community engagement is manifested in our work as a university. Most recently the UW Othello Commons was launched as a part of seeking deeper work in our communities that builds on the work already being done by many of our faculty across schools  UW has leased a small space at the Othello Station, a ground-floor storefront. Stay tuned for more details as it opens this summer as a space for gathering, learning, teaching, and community in partnership with the neighborhood community.

We are participating in a regional initiative, ONE TABLE, to rethink how we collective addresses the challenges of homelessness. The focus is on root causes including:  Child Welfare / Mental and Behavioral Health / Employment / Criminal Justice System / and of course, Affordable housing. We are participating in these efforts- as a voice in the discussion, as a convener, as domain experts, and as community members

On the Seattle campus, we recently launched our first survey of UW students for housing and food insecurities. UW faculty are leading the Doorway Project- seeking to identify more productive ways to design and steward a navigation center for youth who are homeless or on the edge of housing insecurity. We have faculty leading courses addressing the complex challenges including Amy Hagopian, Lisa Kelly, Vicky Lawson, Josephine Ensign, and Rachel Fyall among others. As an institution, we are working with SHA on a long-term ground lease for property over by UW Medicine on Roosevelt with a goal of creating housing with a 60% area median income rent cap.  Thank you to all those working to have a positive and productive impact in our communities.

President Cauce in her report emphasized the importance of OMAD and the Ethnic Cultural Center, where they recruit students around the state. She expressed her concern about the re-authorization of the Higher Education Act that funds a good portion of OMAD.  She noted her involvement with the American Talent Institute makes access possible for low and low-middle income students to access higher education.  Later in the spring, she will be sharing a public lecture making the case for why college matters, and why a four-year degree is more important than ever.  If faculty have thoughts, she invites us to please email her at : President@uw.edu. She then turned to enrollment issues noting that this is the first year we are doing direct admission to the College of Engineering.  Moving to conversations in Olympia, she talked of work on the fund split that reflects an allocation that was not equivalent to what other four-year universities are receiving.  With the cap on resident undergraduate tuition, there is not much room for us to maneuver.  We will likely get a temporary fix, but that does not give us a long term solution. Additionally, we put significant funding into financial aid, more than the other state universities.

JoAnn Taricani, faculty legislative representative, gave an update on the critical work she has been following in Olympia. JoAnn Taricani reported on the budget proposals and impending end of session.  The House and State Senate are close in their proposals regarding salary compensation, but the funding they are providing (at the level we requested) is identified as one-time funding, so we are working on making the case for this funding to be made permanent.  Both budgets propose to add funding to the State Need Grant (for resident undergraduates, providing four years of tuition), with $9.1 million from the Senate, and $25 million from the House, so this amount will need to be negotiated into a final budget.  Funding for increased enrollment at the Allen School is provided at the same level in both budgets, at $3 million per year.  The faculty regent legislation is still not passed, and there is still time to write to your legislators about this bill, HB 1437.  She thanked everyone who has taken the time to go to town halls and write to their legislators, including students who were at the Faculty Senate meeting. Please read her updates: <http://blogs.uw.edu/senate/> and <https://catalyst.uw.edu/workspace/taricani/45456/360911>

UW-IT email changes: Aaron Powell spoke about email changes and the end of Desktop Alpine.  It is being replaced because it is old code, no longer secure, and potentially  brittle putting all of the data at risk. The time is now to move to more robust systems through Microsoft and Google.   There have been numerous messages from campus to faculty and staff on these changes. IT is working with the Retirement Association around the issues that are impacting our UW retirees.  Aaron noted that UW-IT will work with a small group of faculty regarding communications.  Tom Lewis of UW-IT talked about the various timelines.  The site with information about these changes is at  <https://itconnect.uw.edu/connect/email/modernization-overview/>  He also emphasized that no one is losing their @uw.edu address, although many retirees and alumni will need to establish their own service for email and then forward the @uw.edu mail.

Enrollment management: Taking on the critical challenges of enrollment management, Philip Ballinger, Associate Vice Provost for Enrollment Management described changes in enrollment in various majors over time, and the shifts in student preference to the sciences and engineering.  He pointed to the need for a system-wide enrollment and admission system.  Kay Lewis, Executive Director, Financial Aid and Assistant Vice Provost for Enrollment, discussed the ways we provide financial aid at all three campuses, and the way that the Husky Promise financial aid has helped the UW recruit students from a broad socioeconomic background to the UW.

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of OMAD, Rickey Hall, Vice President for Minority Affairs and Jeanette James, Manager, Strategic Initiatives. spoke about the history of the office, covering the origins in the 1960s, as well as their current service to the UW.  Janelle also pointed to some events sponsored by OMAD this quarter and into Spring.  They include their events and many resources at  <http://www.washington.edu/omad/>

Joe Janes from the Information School and Janelle Taylor from the Department of Anthropology presented their cases for their election as Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate in 2018-19, becoming Chair in 2019-20.  Recordings of their presentations will be at <http://www.washington.edu/faculty/senate/>   probably by Monday, March 5.  Faculty Senators will vote on the Vice Chair; they will receive an email message with instructions.

The meeting then turned to two items of Faculty Senate Legislation. The first proposed extending voting rights to senior and principal lecturers with an annual or multi-year contract with at least 50% appointments.  The Class A legislation was passed by the full Senate and will be voted on a second time at the next Senate meeting.  Details are at:  <http://www.washington.edu/faculty/files/2014/05/senate_030118.pdf>

Elizabeth Umphress, member of the Faculty Council on Women in Academia, presented a Class C Resolution on creating additional wellness rooms at the UW, and she outlined the many benefits of providing these rooms. The Class C resolution passed by the full Senate.

 And with that the meeting was done- and before 5:00 pm!