

Update from Faculty Senate Meeting, Thursday, April 25, 2013 on behalf of Dr. Anne Wessells, Assistant Professor, Urban Studies, University of Washington, Tacoma

James Gregory, Senate chair, opened the meeting by emphasizing the full meeting agenda, as well as the history of one item of proposed legislation (below), first proposed over 25 years ago: the undergraduate diversity requirement. Gregory noted ongoing work on faculty salaries, including a proposed step promotion ladder at different faculty ranks; as well as continued negotiation of intellectual property rules.

Legislation

- 1. Promotion Procedure Changes:** Class A Legislation, First Consideration, this would change the Faculty Code at Sec 24-54 to require additional communication between Elected Councils and Deans, and tenure candidates, if the tenure recommendation differs from that of the candidate's academic unit. This would permit candidates to respond in writing to those concerns, before a final decision is made. Debate centered on whether all candidates should receive this update, even if the higher decision concurs with the academic unit's. [The original language of the proposed change was modified so that this communication is *not* required if the recommendation of the council and the Dean concurs with that of the academic unit.]
PASSED.
- 2. Limited Admissions Students:** Class B Legislation, this would change the UW Policy Directory, Student Governance and Policies, Chapter 101, Admissions to make a distinction between two classes of matriculated students: regularly admitted students, and limited admissions students. The latter will populate new online-only degree programs, pay lower tuition rates, and are restricted to the courses and program offerings of that degree. Debate centered on the implications of creating two classes of full-time students, and unexamined questions around eligibility for student activities and events.
PASSED.
- 3. Undergraduate Diversity Course Requirement:** Class B Legislation, this would change the UW Policy Directory, Student Governance and Policies, Chapter 114, Degrees, Graduation, and Commencement to require that 3 credits of coursework meet a new diversity designation, to better prepare students for global citizenship. It is estimated that over 2/3 of current students already meet this requirement, through already-existing courses. Representatives from ASUW spoke in support. Debate centered on the specificity of the language, intended to be strong but not overly prescriptive. [The original language was modified to give examples of possible course topics, as opposed to an exhaustive list.]
PASSED.