

Report on the May 16, 2013 Meeting of University Senate

This, the last regular Senate meeting of the academic year, also marked the 75th anniversary of shared governance at the University of Washington: the Senate's first meeting took place on May 18, 1938.

Chair, Jim Gregory (UW-S, History) summarized the Senate's activities this year which included legislation to revise elements of the tenure and promotion process, the establishment in the curriculum of a long sought after diversity requirement, and on-going discussions with the administration on a number of topics, most prominently the reform of the merit and salary process, the status of non-tenure line instructional faculty, and the question of intellectual property. He also pointed out that the students had advised of their support for a modest tuition increase, provided it was applied to funding faculty salary increases.

President Michael Young reported to the faculty on a number of items. Most prominent was the question of potential merit raises beginning this coming fall. While the Administration supported them, the Legislature had gone into recess so the question remains unresolved.

Provost Ana Mari Cauce most significantly spoke on the on-going discussions with the Lecturer Workgroups, pointing out that the process was most advanced on the Bothell and Tacoma campuses. She reported that there seemed to be agreement on the propositions that, whenever possible, hiring in lecturer ranks should follow competitive processes (she claimed these could be completed within one month's time) and that when searches had not been open position renewals would be reviewed after three years. However, she continued to hold that EEOC rules would not readily permit promotions or longer term contracts for extant Lecturers, a view which the Lecturer Workgroups dispute.

At this meeting, the Senate gave second consideration to changes to Ch. 24-54. Under the Code, final approval of these changes requires a vote of the faculty via Catalyst. The changes in question provide for additional points of notification and response for T&P candidates where a chair, dean, vice-chancellor or chancellor puts forth a negative report.

The Senate also received reports from the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and the Faculty Council on Teaching and Learning (reports are part of the agenda). Scott Woodward, Director of Athletics was questioned by the Chair and several senators about the potential for his unit to make contributions to the instructional budget of the University. Woodward refused to answer, remaining completely silent in response to followup questions and comments.

On a personal note, this marks the end of my second term as your senator. I would like to express my gratitude for the support of the UWT faculty and, in particular, Faculty Assembly Chair Katie Baird. Also, I would like urge my colleagues to consider serving on the Senate: it is a unique opportunity to represent our campus and ensure that Tacoma-specific issues are considered, it is also a wonderful chance to make connections with other faculty from among the three campuses of the University.