

To: Robert Kyr
President, UO Senate

From: Warren Ginsberg
Chair, Faculty Advisory Council, AY 2010-11

Re: FAC End of Year Report
25 May 2011

The Faculty Advisory Council met every Monday of the academic year from 11 am to 1 pm; it also met once during the summer, on June 28, 2010. As is the custom, incoming, continuing, and outgoing members attended the summer meeting. Elected members for the AY 2010-11 are listed below. Shelley Elliott resigned during the year for health reasons; Andrew Verner was appointed to fill her term. The president of the University, the provost, the senior vice provost, the president and vice-president of the UO Senate attended in an ex-officio capacity. During the year, Peter Keyes' term as vice-president of the Senate ended; Robert Kyr replaced him and joined the Council.

Faculty / OA Members for AY 2010-11

Chair: Warren Ginsberg (English)

Elected members: Virginia Cartwright (AAA, Architecture); Michael Hames-Garcia (Ethnic Studies); Bill Harbaugh (Economics); Rob Illig (Law); Robert Melnick (AAA, Landscape Architecture); John Nicols (History); John Russell (Library System); Kim Sheehan (Journalism); Andrew Verner (Business)

Ex-officio members: Senate President (Nathan Tublitz) and Senate Vice President (Peter Keyes, then Robert Kyr)

The FAC this year devoted much time to discussions about confidentiality, the purpose, and the effectiveness of the committee. The group met several times without the president, provost, or senior vice-provost to discuss these issues. The members approved the following statement concerning the confidentiality of its deliberations.

“The Faculty Advisory Council is responsible for providing the President and other Administration officials with faculty opinion and counsel on the wide range of university affairs. In its relations with the President, the Administration, and with the faculty, the Faculty Advisory

Council shall act either on request or on its own initiative. To fulfill its mission, members of the committee recognize that its deliberations must remain confidential. The quality and the effectiveness of the advice we give depend on a free and frank discussion of issues, in which all participants can voice their opinions about advantages and drawbacks without fear that their positions will be divulged or attributed to them.

Furthermore, the FAC often treats issues that are in the public domain. Any information presented at a FAC meeting that is not in the public record will remain confidential. All discussion about information that is in the public record will also remain confidential. Participants in the FAC will not use what they hear in committee meetings in discharging their obligations as faculty, administrators, or staff.

By pledging to adhere to the confidentiality of its proceedings, the participants in the FAC commit to fulfilling their charge by the Senate. The committee shall be the forum where the President and other Administration officials seek faculty advice on all important decisions that affect the university before they are implemented, and where the issues that inform these decisions will be considered thoroughly and with respect.”

The Council also discussed how it might honor its commitment to confidentiality and keep the faculty informed of the issues it discusses. The Council agreed that our agendas should be posted on the Senate Website; difficulties in scheduling, however, often made this impractical, if not impossible. Reporting the matters that were discussed after meetings was also considered; there was considerable disagreement about the form such statements should take. In light of the disagreement, the Chair decided to follow past custom: this memorandum will be the form in which the Council notifies the faculty of its activities.

Three new Vice-Provosts joined the Administration this year. During the year, the FAC had thorough-going conversations with Roger Thompson, VP for Enrollment Management, Mike Andreasen, VP for Development, and Denis Simon, VP for International Affairs. Each discussed the mission of his office, the innovations he has introduced, the goals he has set, and the difficulties he foresees in fulfilling them.

Other major topics considered

Parking fees.

The proposal for a fully empowered campus police force.

Athletic Department Budget.

Funding for the Jaqua Center.

Faculty salaries: equity raises.

The shift to Mondays for Graduation.

The closing of the UO Post Office.

Faculty housing near campus.

The Fiscal Transparency tool.

Grade inflation.

Update on the new budget model.

New Partnership Proposal; the Senate Budget Committee's report on it.

The search for a new parking director.

The possibility of a Vice-Provost for Interdisciplinary Studies.

UO Policy regarding the writing of OARs.

BCS game revenues.

Future of Graduate Education.

Promotion and Tenure Guidelines.

ORI project developments.

Review process for senior administrators.

The intersection between academic and athletic fundraising.

The Academic Plan and progress toward fulfilling its goals.

Resources and the hiring of new faculty.

Growth of revenue allocations for Academic Programs and for Administration.

At our last meeting of AY 2009-10 (11 June), continuing member Kim Sheehan (Journalism) was elected as FAC chair for 2011-12.