

To: Nathan Tublitz
President, UO Senate

From: Barbara Altmann
Chair, Faculty Advisory Council, Spring 2009 and AY 2009-10

Re: FAC End of year report
16 June 2010

John Lysaker (Philosophy) chaired the FAC in Fall and Winter 2008-2009. He resigned as of the end of W09 when he accepted a job at another university for F09. I took over as interim chair for S09 and was then elected as chair for 2009-2010. This report therefore covers Spring 2009 and academic year 2009-2010.

Meetings were held, as usual, every Monday of the academic year from 11 to 1, and in the summer as needed. As is the custom, summer meetings were attended by all incoming, continuing, and outgoing members available. Elected members for each year are listed below. As usual, the following people attended in an ex-officio capacity: the president and vice-president of the UO Senate; the president of the University; the provost; and the senior vice provost.

Members for AY 2008-2009

Chair: John Lysaker (F08/W09), Barbara Altmann (S09)

Elected members: Barbara Altmann (Romance Languages); Ron Bramhall (Business); Matthew Dennis (History) (S09); Lisa Freinkel (English); Ed Kameenui (Special Education); John Lysaker (Philosophy) (F08/W09); Andrew H. Marcus (Chemistry); Harry Price (Music and Dance); Marilyn Reid (English); Leslie Steeves (Journalism and Communication); Magid Shirzadegan (International Affairs)

Ex-officio members: Senate President (Paul van Donkelaar) and the Senate Vice President (Peter Gilkey)

Major topics considered in Spring 2009

Administrators' salaries

Avian flu and campus response

Bend campus

Big Ideas Evaluation Committee

Budget Planning Committee

Changes to PEBB health coverage

Creation of new position for Vice-Provost for Budgeting and Planning

Cuts to UO budget

E-mail civility standards

Enrolments

Faculty governance committee

Faculty salaries

Furloughs; voluntary salary reductions

Graduation 2010, timing
IT infrastructure on campus
Policy review regarding officers of administration
“UO” sign on White Stag building in Portland

Members for AY 2009-2010

Chair: Barbara Altmann

Elected members: Barbara Altmann (Romance Languages); Virginia Cartwright (AAA, Architecture); Warren Ginsberg (English); Michael Hames-Garcia (Ethnic Studies); Jeff Hurwit (AAA, Art History); Rob Illig (Law); Robert Melnick (AAA, Landscape Architecture); John Russell (Library System); Magid Shirzadegan (International Affairs); Paul van Donkelaar (Human Physiology)

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

Major topics considered in 2009-2010

The confidential nature of FAC business was a recurring topic of discussion. Following an incident in which inaccurate and inappropriate information appeared in the Register-Guard concerning the content of a discussion in the FAC, the group met several times without the president, provost, or senior vice-provost to discuss the function of the Council and the principle of confidentiality.

These discussions led to the consensus that it is both impossible and unnecessary to keep confidential the topics that are discussed by the FAC. Visitors invited to meet with the group will know the agenda of certain meetings and, while the FAC can ask visitors to keep confidential what was said, there is no reason they cannot share the information that they met with the FAC. We also reached the conclusion that there are certain advantages to having the campus community aware of what topics the FAC is discussing. Moreover, because annual reports like this one are available on the Senate web site, a list of topics discussed is easily available.

That said, the 2009-2010 FAC re-confirmed the following principles:

- the substance of conversation at meetings must remain confidential
- the FAC does not publically issue recommendations, opinions, or endorsements
- the FAC does not vote on matters under discussion
- any statements made on behalf of the FAC are to be made only by the chair.

The above principles are intended to allow the FAC to be most helpful in its advisory function to the president and the provost, who were reluctant or unable to bring certain sensitive matters to the group for discussion unless they could be sure that there would be no public disclosure of the content. The confidential nature of the discussion also allows for full, free, and frank discussion by everyone attending.

Other topics of discussion included the following:

Accountability metrics

Athletics Department: football team conduct issues; football schedule; priorities and concerns (in discussion with Mike Bellotti, AD); departure of Bellotti, hire of new AD

Building project at Casanova Center

Campus policing

Climate Action Plan

Communications between FPC and Senior Vice Provost's office

Dismissal of University Counsel

Enrolment and admissions issues

Facilities use policies

Faculty mentoring systems on campus

Faculty salaries

Furloughs as required by union for classified staff and proposed for non-classified

IS infrastructure on campus

Lawsuit protection for faculty

Naming of several rooms, spaces, and facilities on campus

NCAA financial report

New UO budget model

New dorm on east campus

Open/public access to scholarship, Scholars' Bank

Pacifica Forum

Parking on campus, change in fees

Partnership Committee

PEBB health coverage changes

Promotion/tenure process

Promotion to full professor, criteria

Responsible Research Conduct

Revised governance structure

Riverfront Research Park development

Search for dean of Business School

Search for VP Development

Search for VP International Affairs

Smoke-free campus

South Eugene neighborhood and town/gown relations

Strategic planning retreat

Tax measures on the ballot and financial consequences for the institution

Transparency Committee

Unionization: organization of town hall information meeting; poll

At our last meeting of AY 2009-10 (11 June), continuing member Warren Ginsberg (English) was elected as FAC chair for 2010-11.