

ASUW Student Senate
January 11, 2005
Minutes

Respectfully submitted by Senate Secretary Alex Kim

Call to order at 5:01 PM.

Chair **Zach Tobin** called for any additions or modifications to the agenda.

Mike Leichner moved to approve the agenda. *Seconded. Passed.*

Public Forum – Mark Emmert, President of the University of Washington

Zach introduced UW President Dr. Mark Emmert.

President Emmert thanked the body for giving him the opportunity to talk. He wanted to think about how to have more exchanges such as this one, saying they've been infrequent in recent years.

He said he first wanted to make a handful of observations. He said that there haven't been many huge building additions or changes to the UW since he was a student, and he enjoyed coming back home to his university after traveling around America.

He grew up in Fife, studied Political Science, and went to graduate school thinking he'd become a city manager. While he was there, he started to fall in love with all things academic. Someone asked if he'd ever thought about being a professor, and it hadn't even dawned on him. He thought about his years here and realized it was something that he really wanted to do. He went on to finish his Ph.D. and joined academia.

As a result of his early love of academia, he said he's always followed closely what has been going on at the UW. When he came back this summer after having been at various schools around the nation, he thought he already knew the UW because he'd followed its progress. When he got here in July, the first thing he wanted to do was to visit the various schools and make sure that his assumptions about the UW were still right. He had assumed that this was a really great university that had an extraordinary national reputation.

He said he found that he had grossly underestimated how great this university is. He said the UW was one of the best in the world. UW was ranked as 8th public university in the world by a school in Shanghai.

He said UW has faculty that lead in almost every major field of intellectual activity. This is what he discovered when he came back to his alma mater.

President Emmert said not enough people in the state appreciate how great this

university is. In fact, he said he found that the further away one got, the more people seemed to know how good this school was. He said we needed to get people in this state to be aware of how great this school is. He said part of his job was to educate people around the state on what an incredible place this was and also how fragile it was. He said it was remarkably easy to lose the competitive edge. He said we had some real financial issues and challenges ahead of us. He said when looking at our competitors, they spent around \$3000 more per student on average. He said UW is 49th in America in terms of the decline in funds for higher education; funds have fallen faster here than every other state but South Carolina.

He said another challenge was making sure we provide an undergraduate education experience as engaging as it could be. He said we had work to do in faculty/student ratio. He said we had to work on the composition of the student body and the faculty, we had to be sure to be an institution with doors open to people of all different walks of life. He said he had a number of challenges in simply maintaining our competitive position. He said to stay competitive, we needed to attract and retain the best faculty. He said we've become a place people like to come to take professors from. He also said we needed to work with our neighbors in the University District to make this an exciting environment to be a part of. He said we wanted to work with the neighborhood and make the U-District a great place to live.

Lastly, he said that as we address our financial issues, we needed to do it in a way that address the opportunities we wanted to give our students: a world-class education in the reach of all students.

President Emmert welcomed questions. **Zach** presided over this period.

Zach Tobin asked how the president planned on combating the recent brain drain, and not just financially. **President Emmert** answered that faculty and deans are most interested in being part of a dynamic environment. He said UW was an easy place to sell to interested new deans. He didn't think recruitment would be a problem; rather, retention was a bigger issue. He said the departure of major administrators was a time to reflect on how to better care of the welfare of the students affected. He pointed out the faculty who were attracted to other places were recruited from the UW because of our growing stature.

Aiko Akers asked a question about the Direct Transfer Agreement. She said it seemed that transfer students were in limbo about how to get into the university. She asked what the plans were for the DTA. **President Emmert** said the university did a poor job of communicating what the elimination of the DTA was about and the media misreported the reasons. He said that the UW was only slightly bigger than when he himself was here, but the state population has nearly doubled. He said that coming out of high school in 2008 will be 15,000 to 30,000 students with no seat in any higher education in the state. He said the UW has been committed for the last 30 years in taking around 30% of students from local community colleges. He said he thought what we had to do was dreadful because we had people going

to community college expecting a slot here and then it was taken away. He said we needed to figure out where to set a new bar in terms of the qualifications for entry. Rather than doing this right away, the automatic transfers were simply stopped. He said also that the UW was trying to increase its size in Bothell and Tacoma.

Jamil Suleman said staff, faculty and students have been battling racism even since President Emmert was in school. He said Minority Think Tank was hoping to get support for its proposal for UIR (“Undoing institutional racism”) training programs. He said that the Ethnic Cultural Center (ECC) was far too small for its many uses, and asked if there were any plans to get the ECC centralized on campus. **President Emmert** said that the ECC facilities were grossly inadequate. He said there was no clear definite plan to expand or move them today, but he said as early as this week, the results of a campus diversity assessment would come out with recommendations on such facilities as the ECC. He said Friday was the target for public viewing of this document. He said he thought the UW has made significant progress up to 5 or 6 years ago. He said I-200 had an enormous chilling effect on this progress. His own personal position was to modify I-200 to be inline with the University of Michigan court decision. He said the UW has been reasonably successful in recruiting faculty of color, but not in retaining them. He said this was something that needed constant attention.

Krystal Starwich said that the legislature has combined its higher education and K-12 education committees into one general education committee. She asked how the president thought this would change our ability to get resources. **President Emmert** said he didn’t know yet. He said it was possible that this could be helpful in that it could allow education to speak with a single voice. He said the problem was that across the nation, higher education is often disadvantaged. He said that in Washington State, the two unfunded, unmandated programs in the budget are higher education and health care, and that this means that when cutting budgets, legislators always turn to these areas. In the case of higher education, cuts occur because they figure that schools can just raise tuition. He said funding for public universities was brutally simple: state support versus tuition. Washington State has said it would not give much support and have moderate tuition levels. He said he felt this was the worst scenario possible, and he would work with whoever was governor in changing this. He said the biggest problem wasn’t structure of committees; it was that the state had no money. He said his principal jobs were to make sure the UW has the resources it needs from all sources and also to set the broad strategic agenda of the University.

Sean Kellogg said that Vice-President of Student Affairs Ernest Morris had an unusual position in that he somehow affected all students in very different ways. He asked what guarantees the president could give that the search committee for a new Vice-President would have diverse student representation. He asked if various students from various constituencies would be able to submit plans. **President Emmert** replied that they would and that he would work with ASUW President Kelsey Knowles and others to ensure that all students would have input and access to the final candidates. He said at the end of the day, however, he would have the

final decision. Still, he said he would make sure to have an understanding of what students wanted when making this choice.

Mytam Nguyen asked what the administration was doing to retain and recruit underrepresented minorities and underprivileged students to the campus.

President Emmert said he wasn't sure because he hadn't had an opportunity yet to look at procedures. He said his "glib answer" was "not enough" just by looking around him. He said there was certainly an overlap between economic disadvantage and racial minority. He said that he tipped his hat because we finally got back to pre I-200 levels, but that we couldn't be satisfied with that. He said we needed to work hard on these issues and that we needed better data on the economic status of students who were here. He said we were pretty confident that our student body was more economically diverse than peer institutions, but we still needed to address the issue. He said we needed to make sure the legislature provided the sufficient need-based aid should tuition rise higher. He also pointed out that this concern was also widely voiced by faculty.

Ben Lasher asked what would have to happen to get funding to appropriate levels, and what students could do. **President Emmert** said we could work with the Senate and with Kelsey to make sure we were being heard in Olympia. He said he often felt that students underestimated the impact they could have on individual legislators. He said he thought the critical issues were to get legislators and opinion leaders, including the business community, to recognize the critical role the UW plays in the development of the state. He said when legislators heard from citizens, students, and business leaders, rather than from just him, is when they would begin to get the message. He said students could encourage people in their hometowns to take up the issue.

Patrick Mar said having a good athletic program was very important for various reasons. He ask what role the president would have in bringing a good football tradition back to UW. **President Emmert** said he supported intercollegiate athletics only because they supported the rest of the institution, and that if it ever stopped supporting the school, we should stop doing it. He said it was important to realize that not a penny of tuition went into sports, and they could only spend what they made. He said this was only true at a few institutions. He said that we were a sports crazed society, and this fact meant that we needed to have a strong athletic program. He said his mission was to make sure that when people around the country saw the Huskies, they saw something that represented our values and that it was competitive at the highest levels, whether it was physics or football. He said sports were also great social glue and something we all get excited about. With that, he said that his role was to make sure that good leadership was in place and also that they had the resources they needed. He described Todd Turner as perhaps the best athletic director in the country.

Will Miller asked what the president foresaw happening to out-of-state tuition in the future. **President Emmert** replied that there were no plans right now to raise out-of-state tuition disproportionately to in-state tuition, and he anticipated that it would

be the same relative increase with in-state tuition. He said we wanted to increase it as little as possible, but it depended on the legislature.

Jon Lee asked what the UW's stance would be given a choice between the quality of education versus quantity of students here. **President Emmert** said that, if we wanted to, the University could be grown tomorrow to 50,000 students, but the quality of education would be diminished dramatically. He said we could take everyone, but it wouldn't be the same UW. He said that he, with the full support of the Regents, would choose quality over quantity and that the Regents have essentially told the Legislature that we would not accept more students unless the legislature paid for it. He said we were opting for quality because that is why we were all here. He said UW was a great brand name everywhere in the world and he didn't want to tarnish it.

President Emmert concluded by saying that as forms of communication with students, he relied on senators as elected representatives, visited classes, and held forums, but wanted to increase ways of having dialogue. He asked students to send him e-mail at pres@u.washington.edu.

Zach Tobin thanked **President Emmert** for coming to address the Senate.

Zach called a 5-minute recess to allow senators to check in with committee chairs.

Zach reconvened the Senate at 6:13 pm.

Chair's Report

Zach reported that next week, the Senate would be meeting in HUB 108. He also encouraged members to sign up to volunteer for the HUB Open House tomorrow and receive a free t-shirt for volunteering for an hour. He asked senators to be mindful of the new room and speak up. He yielded to **Aiko Akers**, who said that we wanted to start tabling and be more visible for students. She said a sign-up sheet was available and asked members to sign-up to table in front of the HUB. She also said that next week, at 4pm in HUB 108 preceding the meeting. Lastly, **Jon Lee** encouraged all returning senators to come to the social and be a Senate buddy, and especially encouraged new senators to come and learn about the way Senate works.

ASUW Presidential Privilege

President **Kelsey Knowles** reminded members about the HUB Open House tomorrow and encouraged members to attend along with their friends. Also, she reported that 11am-4pm tomorrow was the Health Fair being put on by the ASUW Commissions. Thursday at 5pm would be a candlelight vigil for victims of the Asian tsunami crisis in Red Square. She reported that student lobbyist Jamie Corning testified today before the committee on education, and that she would be testifying tomorrow morning. She invited members to talk to her if they had questions. She also encouraged members to ask questions of her or Krystal Starwich.

BOD Report

Director **Chris Barrows** reminded senators that Michael Ian Black was coming to Meany Hall. Tonight was also the Relay for Life kick-off meeting. He also reminded senators of the MLK Day of Service. Director **Garrett Parks** reported that the Subcommittee on Academic Planning had announced that two new minors would be created: French Studies and Japan Studies. He said that concerns have been raised about representatives of various businesses coming to classes. He also said that concerns about the 225 credit requirement for double degrees would be discussed at the next meeting of the Academic Progress Task Force. Chris added that applications for volunteers on the Elections Administration Committee were available.

There was no GPSS Report.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Nominations for RainyDawg Frequency Task Force

Director **Rachel Flynn** said the task force was to explore getting RainyDawg on the airwaves. She said that meeting time was to be determined awaiting the new representative.

Else Washines nominated Mona Daniels. Accepted.

There were no further nominations.

R-11-4: A Resolution to endorse Exciton as the preferred provider of the University of Washington's Graduation announcements

Zach invited **John Marini**, sponsor of the legislation, to speak.

Vice-Chair **Karl Smith** reported that he was in touch with Jostens but that he had not received a reply to the questions he posed through e-mail.

John Marini said there were several concerns he wanted to address specifically now. He distributed a sheet to the senators which detailed basic designs and costs. He said he felt that the synergy between his company and the local printer with 25 years of experience in printing announcements and other graduation documents would be beneficial in that the announcements could be produced at a lower cost. He said he felt his company had done a lot of research and focused on environmental friendliness and local business reciprocation.

Aiko Akers said she strongly supported this resolution and strongly supported John and his business. She said she trusted the business school to give him the skills. She said that this was a chance for the Senate to make a material difference in impacting students, and it was an important thing to keep in mind. She said this supported our local economy, supported our fellow students, and supported our academics.

Alvin Chen said that all the information provided so far compares Excition with Jostens, but wondered if any other bidders were involved. **John** replied that Jostens had a basic powerhouse in the west, so it was easier to frame the process this way. He said he suspected that Herff-Jones would probably submit a bid as well. Still, he pointed out the difference was that these companies were providing generic solutions for colleges, whereas he was specifically for UW.

Steve Kushnir asked if it would be acceptable to render our opinion next week. John said it probably was okay.

Mike Leichner said he felt it would be a disservice to our school for us to pick a bidder without having knowledge of other bids. He said it wasn't showing a disloyalty to UW by not supporting a student. He suggested amending the resolution to express support for John's company rather than support for his victory in the bid.

Secretary **Alex Kim** said that he didn't think it was betraying the University's academics to not support this resolution: he asked if denying him the ability to dig up members' ancestors was equal to not support anthropology. He added that he was confused in terms of the information having been offered up to this point, but hoped that the Senate did not terminate the discussion prematurely.

Aaron Schwitters said that a lot of people have said that we don't have a lot of information, but he felt that we could make a decision based on what we did know.

Jon Evans commended John for going through this whole process. He thinks that it has the potential to be a really great thing, but we must see the other side. He entertained a motion to postpone the matter until next week.

Tyler Dockins moved to postpone the resolution until next week. *Seconded.*

Tyler said this would give some more time for competitors to bring information, and also, he said this would give more time for people to prepare changes to the legislation.

Aiko Akers said that the resolution has been on the table for weeks now and it was irresponsible that members had not been prepared.

Mike Leichner said he was also against postponing this because he would vote against it anyway.

Steve Kushnir said he felt ambushed with this matter coming to him without more information, and wanted to hear more.

Razmig Keutelian said he felt we should support John's company.

Nick Dayton said that if Jostens cared, they would have come.

Will Miller moved to close debate. Seconded. Passed.

The motion to postpone failed.

Aiko Akers said that our choice in the matter needed to be made now. She said she wanted to support John.

Scott Ladner asked about John's long-term plans. **John** replied that he loved no place better than Seattle, and he felt that this could be a long-term company. He says he's also begun speaking to other schools in the state where he has contacts. He said this was really a long-term business plan.

Joel Murray moved to amend the resolution to replace all WHEREAS clauses with his new language and also to replace the THAT clause with new language. Seconded.

He said that he felt this better epitomized the feelings he felt the body was having.

Aiko Akers said that this would be another toothless vague resolution if the amendment passed.

Will Miller said he felt it was pretty self-explanatory.

Alex Kim said this was watered down and that even Jostens could say this. He wants to move back to the main debate.

Jerry Derevyanny moved to close debate. Seconded. Passed.

The amendment failed.

Margo Anderson said we were supposed to be anti-corporation, and therefore wondered why wouldn't we support this.

John Marini said that he felt that actions speak louder than words, and that Jostens's products showed their intentions: he said they used generic formats, impersonal interfaces, and had higher prices. He said going with his company would increase accountability.

Cammie Croft moved to close debate. Seconded. Passed.

R-11-4 passed.

Jon Lee moved to adjourn the Senate. Seconded. Passed.