

Annual Report

University of Oregon Faculty Advisory Council

2003-2004

In 2003-2004, the FAC met on a weekly basis to provide the President, Senior Vice President/Provost and the Vice President for Academic Affairs Provost and Senior Vice Provost with faculty opinion and counsel on the wide range of university affairs.

Elected members of the 2003-2004 FAC were Susan Anderson (Germanic languages), Jan Cuny (Computer Science), Matthew Dennis (History), Fritz Gearhart (Music), Helen Gernon (Accounting), Hilary Gerdes (Academic Advising), Leslie Harris (Law), Jeffrey Hurwit (Art History), Katy Lenn (Library), and Nathan Tublitz (Biology). *Ex officio* members of the 2003-2004 FAC were Lowell Bowditch (Classics & UO 2003-04 Senate President), Lorraine Davis (Vice President for Academic Affairs), Dave Frohnmayer (President), and John Moseley (Senior Vice President & Provost).

The following issues were discussed by the 2003-2004 FAC.

1. PROPOSED BASKETBALL ARENA AND SITING. The FAC was briefed during the summer of 2003 about the basketball arena siting situation and given several additional updates throughout the fall as the situation changed. Input from the FAC was requested and given several times during these briefings.

2. INTERVIEWS WITH CANDIDATES FOR THE NEW VICE PROVOST FOR INSTITUTIONAL EQUITY AND DIVERSITY POSITION. The 2002-2003 search for this position spilled over into the summer of 2003 and the FAC continued to be involved in the search by interviewing the 4th candidate for this position.

3. FACULTY LEADERSHIP CAUCUS. At the request of 2003-04 Senate President Lowell Bowditch, the FAC participated in the 3rd annual Faculty Leadership Caucus in mid September immediately prior to the beginning of the academic year.

4. UNIVERSITY BUDGET. Provost Moseley and Vice Provost Davis presented an overview of the 2003-2004 University budget in the fall. They along with President Forhnmayer provided many additional updates throughout the year focusing on the ever-changing budget situation including the *de rigeur* yearly explanation on the RAM funding model.

5. ATHLETICS TASK FORCE. The two co-chairs of the President's Task for on Athletics, Professors Suzanne Clark (English) and Margie Paris (Law), presented a detailed report on the activities of the Task Force during the past two years and, along with President Frohnmayer, led a spirited discussion on several issues concerning the role of athletics on our campus.

6. GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS/LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS. The FAC had numerous conversations concerning State Board and its wholesale turnover this year. We also had many discussions on the Governor's higher education budget and the impact of the State Legislature on University finances. Among the topics discussed were the state appropriation to OUS, the \$14.4 million student "tax" we are required to pay back to the state in January 2005, tuition increases,

cuts to our general fund, benefit reductions, etc.

7. OREGON UNIVERSITY SYSTEM AND THE CHANCELLOR. We received many updates on the relationship between the University and the Oregon University System, the Chancellor, and the impact of the new State Board on OUS from President Frohnmayer, Provost Moseley and Vice President Davis. Because of the State Board's re-organization of OUS and the Chancellor's resignation, we had frequent discussions on the state of OUS throughout the year.

8. FACULTY SALARIES AND BENEFITS. The FAC discussed methods of improving faculty salaries in light of the Governor's across the board salary freeze for all state employees. We also discussed declining health and retirement benefits with a particular focus on changes in ORP mandated by the 2002-2003 Legislature and implemented in the fall of 2003.

9. RESIDENCE HALLS AND THE LIVING LEARNING CENTER. We were briefed on the status of replacing our current, out-dated residence halls and the siting of the new living learning center on the property currently occupied by the basketball/handball and tennis courts on 15th Avenue across from the Bowerman building.

10. INTERINSTITUTIONAL FACULTY SENATE. We listened to a report on the current issues facing the IFS from the incoming IFS president and discussed various strategies to ensure that a faculty member be appointed to the new State Board.

11. LONG TERM CAMPUS PLANNING. We had several conversations throughout the year on the role of the campus planning committee and on long term planning ideas for the campus. Chris Ramey, the University Architect, presented an excellent talk on the goals/aims of campus planning and on how the campus should be developed and preserved over the next 50 years.

12. MEETING WITH GOVERNOR KULONGOWSKI. Gov. Kulongowski met with members of the FAC, Senate Executive and top University Administrators on January 14th. The Governor arrived 30 minutes late, spoke for 30 minutes, took one question and left. Needless to say, what was touted as a conversation with the governor never occurred.

13. COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN. Alan Price visited the FAC several times during the year to update us on the progress of the comprehensive capital campaign, including a useful presentation on the comprehensive campaign case studies.

14. COALITION OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS (COIA). Several documents submitted by COIA, a national coalition of faculty leaders, were on the University Senate docket for discussion and ratification in winter of 2004. These documents, which included general principles for running athletic departments and best practices for Faculty Athletic Representatives to the NCAA and the Intercollegiate Athletic Committee (IAC), were discussed by the FAC prior to their discussion in the University Senate.

15. SHARED GOVERNANCE. We had several fruitful conversations about the role of shared governance at the University of Oregon and the need for inclusion in major decisions of all stakeholder groups, including faculty, administration, students and staff. The hazy boundaries between administrative prerogative and faculty consultation on major issues were discussed but no conclusion was reached.

16. RIVERFRONT RESEARCH PARK. We had a useful update on the Riverfront Research

Park and changes to the urban re-development zone from Diane Wiley, Director of the Riverfront Research Park, and Richie Weinmann, a planner with the City of Eugene.

17. UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY. The FAC devoted part of a weekly meeting to a discussion on potentially revising the structure and rules governing the University Assembly. This issue came up because of difficulties in organizing a legislative University Assembly meeting in 2002-2003.

18. PROGRAM REVIEWS. Rich Linton and Marian Friestad from the Graduate School came to talk with the FAC about re-initiating graduate program reviews across campus.

19. RETIREMENT OF TOP ADMINISTRATORS. We had a fruitful conversation and update with President Frohnmayer, Provost Moseley and Vice President Davis about plans for succession when they retire.

20. UNIVERSITY'S POLICY ON LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPOENAS. The FAC discussed the new University policy on law enforcement subpoenas of student records, which was developed to clarify University policy on this issue.

21. KNIGHT CHAIRS. Vice President Davis led a discussion on the current and future allocation of Knight chairs and professorships.

As the outgoing FAC chair, I end this report with some personal observations. The purpose of the FAC is to provide faculty opinion and counsel to the University President and top University administrators on a diverse set of issues. Issues covered by the FAC fall into three broad categories: 1) those in very early stages of discussion prior to the development of any decision; 2) those in an intermediate stage in which a plan/solution has been tentatively devised but which requires more input before a final decision is reached; and 3) those in which a decision has already been made and which is being announced to the FAC immediately prior to public announcement. This year's FAC spent more time on the final category of issues - those already decided upon - than on the other two categories. In this regard, the FAC is underutilized. The FAC should be more fully engaged in the decision-making process from the beginning as it represents a wealth of expertise and experience.

I have very much enjoyed working with all members of the 2003-2004 Faculty Advisory Council, and I thank them for their always thoughtful insight and dedication to the principles of faculty governance at the University of Oregon.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Tublitz
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Chair, 2003-2004 FAC