

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Academic Standards

October 23, 2020

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Zoom

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Call to Order
 2. Review minutes from October 9, 2020
 3. SCAP Report
 4. FCAS Census and Charge Letter revision
 5. Equivalent Courses Legislation
 6. W & C courses
 7. Good of the Order
 8. Adjourn
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1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

2) Review minutes from October 9, 2020

The minutes from October 9, 2020 were approved as written.

3) SCAP report

Routine Business:

#1 - Geography

The proposal is for new honors requirements for the Data Science Option within the Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography. The department is proposing to add option Honors requirements.

The council voted to approve.

4) FCAS Census and Charge Letter revision

Chair Huppert shared the revised Charge Letter draft (Exhibit 3). The council will continue their work on policy items related to revisions of scholastic regulations moved forward for legislation through the faculty senate. The FCAS council webpage hosts links included on the census document, which FCAS will also be renovating. The chair asked council members to consider any additional items for the charge letter.

FCAS will gather more information about the request for an increased diversity requirement and potential new sustainability credit prior to developing an action plan.

Some members noted their largest concern is related to the area of knowledge definitions. This topic and the English language proficiency requirement will be brought to SCAG and are already on the FCAS census document. It was mentioned these definitions have never had faculty oversight in the creation process. As the definitions are not codified, they are technically malleable for each campus. Areas of knowledge are a tri-campus issue and would require insight by stakeholders beyond FCAS. The Faculty 2050 taskforce and subgroups from the Arts & Sciences Direct to Division conversation endorsed examination of this topic.

As FCAS is interested in working with the areas of knowledge and W & C courses, the work may expand to the broader topic of general education. This has been a continuing issue discussed during accreditation. UW is in their final accreditation cycle year and would like updated learning outcomes and assessment language for the April 2021 meeting.

The latest draft of the FCAS Policy Census was distributed to council members (Exhibit 2). Members suggested developing the scope of FCAS' work prior to targeting specific policies to codify.

5) Equivalent Courses Legislation

The chair displayed the latest draft of FCAS' Class B Legislation on equivalent courses (Exhibit 4). Equivalent courses have been a UW Curriculum Office priority since 2011. Currently, there is no definition in scholastic regulations regarding equivalent courses. The goal of this work is to codify the already used informal practices.

UW's tri-campus equivalence policy was put in place to allow students to use an equivalent course across all campuses as degree or graduate requirements. It gives students the ability to move their courses around. Courses designated equivalent are recorded in the Degree Audit system and curriculum management system. Once data is prepared, that information will be made available to students in the UW catalog. When an equivalency course request is made, there is a curriculum management system which requires departmental chair and college level approval.

UW follows a single transcript\multi-campus curriculum which often leads to departments offering courses on similar topics across different campus. The equivalency policy prevents students from receiving credit from essentially the same courses continuously. If courses are equivalent, but one course does a course change, that equivalency must be reevaluated.

FCAS had previously noted interest in keeping a vagueness in wording, which may help keep new changes in the code from overlapping or contradicting what is already written. Council members noted additional language could include "considered by the appropriate faculty body" which would allow FCAS or another stakeholder to host the expanded equivalent courses policy information.

A background and rationale will be drafted to prepare this legislation for senate review in November.

6) W & C courses

Chair Huppert mentioned FCAS reviewed Writing (W) and Composition (C) course information in the Fall 2019 but there was an existing task force working on the topic. This committee included Brian Reed, Katie Malcom (Associate Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning), Ryan Burt (Director of Academic Support Programs), subject matter experts from Seattle campus and UW Tacoma/Bothell.

The task force is continuing their work and will give FCAS updates on what needs to be changed through scholastic regulations and any updates on wording for general W and C course guidelines. They are also suggesting the requirement of English language as the requirement for W courses to be removed.

7) Good of the Order

The chair noted membership for the 2020-2021 Honor subcommittee including Susanne Redalje, Mike Lockwood, and Jennifer Turns. Additional questions about subcommittee membership were directed to Chair Huppert.

Jason Johnson, Tina Miller, Chair Huppert, Stephen Groening, and Jennifer Turns volunteered to focus their attention on FCAS' scope. FCAS will reach out to FCTCP for additional members to discuss this issue.

8) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

Minutes by Alexandra Portillo, council analyst, xanport@uw.edu

Present:

Faculty Code Section 21-61 A: Ann Huppert (Chair), Tom Lee, Mike Lockwood, Zhi Lin, Marjorie Olmstead, Joel Ross, Jennifer Turns, Yusuf Pisan, Daniel Feetham, Stephen Groening

Faculty Code Section 21-61 B: Clara Coyote, Susanne Redalje, Sarah Garner, Luz Iniguez, Jennifer Payne

President's Designee: Phil J. Reid

Regularly invited guests: Tina Miller, Jason Johnson, Scott Fallgren

Absent:

Faculty Code Section 21-61 B: Scott Spaulding

Exhibits

Exhibit 1 – SCAP report

Exhibit 2 – FCAS Policy Census Summer 2019_rev10.20.20

Exhibit 3 – FCAS 2020-2021 charge letter

Exhibit 4 – Class B Legislation - Equivalent courses-draft-HELD

**Class B Legislation
Student Governance and Policies
Scholastic Regulations
Chapter 115, Section 1 (Course-Numbering System)**

Background and Rationale

1. Course-Numbering System

University courses shall be numbered as follows:

M. Equivalent Courses

Equivalent courses are courses with the same core content that are offered independently by two or more offering units. Equivalent courses are considered duplicates for prerequisites, program requirements, when determining grade point averages, and repeated courses. Changes to an equivalent course will require re-evaluation of that course's equivalence with other courses.

S-B 43, October 1949 with Presidential approval; HB, 1950; S-B 92, May 1964 with Presidential approval; S-C 180, October 1968; AI, November 1968; S-B 167, November 26, 2001 with Presidential approval; AI, February 9, 2006; S-B 173, April 6, 2007 with Presidential approval; AI, February 9, 2015; RC, October 27, 2017.

Submitted by:
Faculty Council on Academic Standards