Meeting Synopsis

1. Call to Order
2. Review minutes from November 9, 2018
3. Chair’s report
4. Discussion: academic probation period (Martinez)
5. Areas of Knowledge policy language (discussion)
6. Biology / P. Biology (Pharmacy) overlap (discussion)
7. SCAP report
8. Good of the order
9. Adjourn

1. Call to Order

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

2. Review minutes from November 9, 2018

The council requested to amend the minutes from November 9, 2018. Items under the SCAP report were changed to reflect the council’s approval to forward proposals for tri-campus review. The minutes were approved as amended.

3. Chair’s report

Stroup, the chair, reported that both the “1503 instructions for substantial program proposals” and the “syllabus guidelines” are now posted on the FCAS website

DtX updates – the President and Provost have instructed the College of Arts and Sciences to halt their direct to division 1503. The President and the Provost are still supportive of a holistic view/revision on admission processes.

Review of holistic admissions is looking at the use of supercells. Supercells are meant to provide more flexibility by using larger blocks of students and intended major. Modifying the forum of holistic review and redefining categories for student admissions.

4. Discussion: academic probation period (Martinez)

Felipe Martinez, Manager of Student Success Division of Student Life, attended the council to present revisions to undergraduate academic probation (Exhibits 1, 2 & 3).
A member asked what the rational for not granting students a warning later in their academic career. Martinez responded that these students have had a longer time at the university and more experience. Martinez also noted that lower income, first generation college students are at a greater risk of falling into academic probation. Lowering the barrier may help these students.

A member asked how many students were dismissed per year. Martinez responded that approximately 200 students were dismissed last year.

A member asked if the language used in all exhibits could be consistent (2.0 vs. 2.00 and gpa vs. grade point average). Martinez said they would make these changes.

The chair proposed that the council support this change and approve it for Class B legislation. A motion was made to approve the proposed changes, and the council approved the motion.

5. **Areas of Knowledge policy language (discussion)**

The chair suggested that the current language used to define Areas of Knowledge (on the UW Undergraduate Advising site) could be updated and made more readily available without changing the policy. FCAS could explore changing policies around Areas of Knowledge in the future.

FCAS will draft a guidance document around Areas of Knowledge.

6. **Biology / P. Biology (Pharmacy) overlap (discussion)**

Scott Fallgren, Curriculum Coordinator for the University Registrar, informed the council that the Department of Physiology and Biophysics (P.Bio) proposed two courses in Physiology and Human Anatomy, but did not reach out to the Biology department. Biology has objections because these courses overlap with their already established courses. P.Bio created their courses specifically for PharmD students and these classes would replace their conjoined courses. A member commented that budgetary constraints should be considered, but they should not prevent other departments from providing similar courses (specific to their students) and thus limit capacity. The chair suggested that this needs review of the deans.

7. **SCAP report**

*Non-routine business:*

**#1 – Anthropology**

The request is for an Indigenous Archaeology Option within the Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology. The department is proposing a new option, as well as several housekeeping changes to the existing BA degree.

The request was approved by majority vote.

**#2 – Asian Languages and Literature**

The request is for revised requirements for the Minor in Chinese.
The request was approved by majority vote.

**#3 – Asian Languages and Literature**

The request is for revised program requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Japanese.

The request was approved by majority vote.

**#4 – Integrated Social Sciences**

The request is for revised program requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Integrated Social Sciences. The department is proposing allowing ISS majors to participate for credit in study abroad programs.

The request was approved by majority vote.

**#5 – Jackson School of International Studies**

The request is for a minor in Hellenic Studies.

The request was approved by majority vote.

**#6 – Jackson School of International Studies**

The request is for a minor in Portuguese Language and Luso-Brazilian Studies.

The request was approved by majority vote.

**#7 – The Information School**

The request is for revised requirements for the Minor in Informatics. The department is proposing to change the grade requirements and the number of credits required for the minor.

The request was approved by majority vote to be forwarded for tri-campus review.

8. **Good of the order**

Nothing was stated.

9. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes by Lauren Hatchett, lehatch@uw.edu, council analyst

**Present:** Faculty: Sarah Stroup (Arts & Sciences) (chair), D. Shores (Business), Lynn Dietrich (Education), Radhika Govindrajan (Arts & Sciences), Joel Thornton
(Environment), John Sahr (Engineering), Zhi Lin (Arts & Sciences), Phil Brock (Arts & Sciences), Champak Chatterjee (Arts & Sciences), Mike Lockwood (Naval ROTC)

**Ex-officio reps:** Jennifer Payne, Meera Roy, Conor Casey, Angelia Miranda, Dan Feetham

**President’s designee:** Philip Ballinger

**Guests:** Robert Corbett, Michaelann Jundt, Tina Miller, Emily Leggio, Scott Fallgren

**Absent:**

**Faculty:** Dan Ratner (Engineering), Ann Huppert (Built Environments)

**Ex-officio reps:** N/A

**Exhibits**

- Exhibit 1 – FCAS Academic Probation Revised.docx
- Exhibit 2 – FCAS Proposal Appendix A.docx
- Exhibit 3 – Chapter 107 Draft.docx
November 15, 2018

To: Faculty Council on Academic Standards

Re: Proposal to amend current academic probation policies

Under the purview of the American Talent Initiative/Graduation and Retention Rates Taskforce, a working group composed of colleagues from a variety of student services units reviewed institutional policies and practices to identify those that could directly or indirectly act as barriers to student success. The group reviewed current policies and student outcomes data, benchmarked against peer institutions, and took into account what was possible given the current limitations of our student information systems. The working group then offered recommendations to the Taskforce, including the recommendation to amend Scholastic Regulation Chapter 107 (Academic Probation and Dismissal due to Low Scholarship) based on the following findings:

- Most of the policies and regulations found in Chapter 107 were written in 1964 with few edits after.
- The current academic probation policies are significantly stricter than those of peers (e.g., UCLA and University of Michigan). The vast majority implement a longer probation process with a minimum GPA requirement of 2.0 per term, thus allowing student services units additional time to support student success and for students to continue to demonstrate academic growth. (Appendix A includes a list of peer institutions and their requirements for students during academic probation.)
- The University offers a two-quarter probation process for some but not all students; it is only an option for new students during their first two quarters of enrollment.
- An assessment of students who were dismissed for low scholarship from 2005-2015 found that Pell-eligible and first-generation college students were dismissed at higher rates than their overall representation on campus.

Based on these findings, the working group reported that, in its view, the policies and regulations no longer reflect the realities of current undergraduate students and place the University behind its peers. Updating the academic probation policies to be more in line with peers could support access and equity without affecting excellence. Updates would streamline both policy and processes, allow for adequate interventions and support for students who face temporary hardships, and ensure that students who demonstrate academic progress in their probationary quarter continue to improve.

The 2.5 GPA rule in particular, has been found to create unnecessary stress on students. Students on academic probation who feel they are unable to earn at least a 2.5 GPA withdrawal from all of their classes to avoid being dropped from the University even when they could have earned at least a 2.0 for the term. By withdrawing from all of their courses, these students further delay their graduation, could potentially accrue more student debt, and increase demand on courses.
offered at the UW. Additionally, if the students rely on financial aid, they jeopardize their ability to secure funding to be able to continue enrolled. Finally, even if students do not withdraw and earn at least a 2.0 for the term, they are still dropped from the University. This drop is demoralizing to students even though they demonstrated academic growth during the term.

Following are resulting recommendations to amend Scholastic Regulation Chapter 107 along with brief summaries of the current policies:

**Section 2. Academic Probation**
Chapter 107, Section 2 outlines that new undergraduates should be given a warning quarter if their first quarter GPA is below a 2.0. Continuing students, however, do not receive a warning quarter under Section 2 and are placed on academic probation at the end of the term in which their cumulative GPA falls below a 2.0.

Section 2 however, does not give a warning quarter to new students who have taken courses as a non-matriculated student while in high school, for example. They do not receive a warning quarter because they are labeled as continuing students under the current policy. As a result, if these students fail to earn a 2.0 GPA in their first quarter as a degree-seeking student, they are immediately placed on academic probation and could be dismissed from the University after the second quarter they fail to raise their overall GPA to above a 2.0. The loss of the warning quarter due to prior enrollment unrelated to their undergraduate degree places these students at a disadvantage.

**Proposal:** Amend Section 2 to define first quarter of enrollment to be the quarter after being formally admitted as an undergraduate, degree-seeking student.

**Section 5. Dismissal for Low Scholarship**
Chapter 107 Section 5 outlines that students that are placed on academic probation will be dropped from the UW unless by the end of their probationary quarter they either (1) raise their cumulative GPA to above a 2.0 or (2) earn at least a 2.50 each quarter they are on probation until they raise their overall grade point average to above a 2.0.

Comparison with peer institutions shows that overwhelmingly, peers use 2.0 as the GPA needed to stay enrolled.

**Proposal:** Amend Section 5 to eliminate the 2.5 rule so that students who demonstrate academic improvement and progress by earning at least a 2.0 term GPA can continue to enroll at UW. Students would still need to continue to earn at least a 2.0 each probationary term until they raise their cumulative GPA to clear academic probation.
## Appendix A

### Peer Institution Benchmarking

#### Academic Probation and Dismissal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Undergraduate Enrollment**</th>
<th>Quarter/Semester System</th>
<th>Academic Probation**</th>
<th>Dismissal**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U of Washington</td>
<td>31,331</td>
<td>Quarter</td>
<td>it could be more than one quarter provided the student achieves a 2.5 quarterly GPA at minimum</td>
<td>An undergraduate student is placed on academic probation at the end of any quarter (except for the first quarter at the University, when an academic warning is issued) in which his or her cumulative GPA falls below 2.00. The student remains on probation until the cumulative GPA is raised to at least 2.00. If this requires more than one quarter's work, the student must maintain a quarterly GPA of at least 2.50 each succeeding quarter or the student is dropped for low scholarship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC Berkeley</td>
<td>30,574</td>
<td>Semester</td>
<td>1 semester with potential exceptions</td>
<td>A student is placed on 2.0 Academic Probation at the end of a fall or spring semester if the student fails to achieve at least an overall UC grade-point average of 2.0. To clear overall probation (return to good academic standing), a minimum 2.0 term (semester) and a 2.0 cumulative UC GPA must be achieved by the end of the next semester of enrollment (probationary term). Students who do not clear probation with their probationary term grades are &quot;Subject to Dismissal.&quot; Students who are subject to dismissal are reviewed by the Dismissal Review Committee and are either dismissed from the University or continued on probation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCLA</td>
<td>31,002</td>
<td>Quarter</td>
<td>Up two quarters until overall GPA is above 2.0. Students need to earn a at least a 2.0 term GPA to continue for a second term on probation</td>
<td>A student shall be subject to disqualification from further registration at the University if (a) the student’s grade-point average falls below 1.5 for any quarter, or (b) after two quarters on academic probation the student has not achieved a grade-point average of 2.0 (C average) for all courses undertaken in the University, or (c) while on academic probation the student’s grade-point average for work undertaken during any quarter falls below 2.0 (C average).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U of Wisconsin</td>
<td>42,977</td>
<td>Semester</td>
<td>Two terms but could be longer</td>
<td>If a student is not on probation and earns a term GPA of 1.00 - 1.99, the student is placed on probation. If a student is not on probation and earns a term GPA of less than 1.00, the student is placed on strict probation. If a student is on probation and earns a term GPA of 1.50 - 1.99, the student is placed on strict probation. If a student is on probation and earns a term GPA of less than 1.50, the student is dropped (placed on academic suspension) for one (1) year. If a student is on strict probation and earns a term GPA below 2.00, the student is dropped (placed on academic suspension) for one (1) year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U of Michigan</td>
<td>29,821</td>
<td>Trimester</td>
<td>Students placed on probation can continue enroll as long as they earn a 2.0 GPA per term.</td>
<td>If a student is placed on probation they are required to complete all courses on time and to have an average for that term which is better than 2.0. Student can continue to be enrolled provided that they meet the terms of probation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U of Virginia</td>
<td>16,655</td>
<td>Semester</td>
<td>2 consecutive semesters</td>
<td>Students are subject to suspension after two consecutive semesters on probation, or if they fail to earn at least nine grade points in a semester.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**All information was taken from institutional websites. Undergraduate enrollment was taken from IPEDS College Navigator tool.**
2. Academic Probation

Except as noted below, any undergraduate student shall be placed on academic probation when his or her cumulative grade-point average falls below 2.00. Such action will be recorded on the student's official academic record. Any undergraduate student whose grade-point average for his or her first quarter at the University falls below 2.00 shall be warned that his or her scholarship is unsatisfactory, and that if he or she fails to achieve a cumulative grade-point average of 2.00 by the end of the second quarter he or she will be placed on academic probation. The Registrar under delegated authority from the dean of the college in which the student is enrolled shall notify the student as soon as possible that either (a) his or her scholarship is unsatisfactory, or (b) he or she has been placed on scholastic probation. The student is reminded further that he or she should consult with his or her academic adviser immediately to discuss future academic plans.

5. Dismissal for Low Scholarship

Any undergraduate student on academic probation will be dropped at the end of his or her probationary quarter unless he or she either (1) has attained at least
a 2.00 cumulative average, or (2) has attained at least a 2.50 average during each quarter of his or her current probationary period. Any student dropped under this rule will be notified in writing of this action by the Registrar.

5. Dismissal for Low Scholarship

Any undergraduate student on academic probation will be dropped at the end of his or her probationary quarter unless he or she either (1) has attained at least a 2.00 cumulative average, or (2) has attained at least a 2.00 average during each quarter of his or her current probationary period. Any student dropped under this rule will be notified in writing of this action by the University Registrar.