

**University of Washington  
Faculty Council on Academic Standards**

January 11, 2019  
1:30pm – 3:00pm  
Gerberding 142

**Meeting Synopsis**

1. Call to order
2. Review minutes from December 14, 2018
3. Chair's report
4. Discussion and vote on Class B Legislation (CR / NC grade cutoff)
5. Vote on Class C resolution language (medical excuse notes)
6. Discussion and vote on draft of FCAS AoK policy
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 December 14, 2018**

The minutes from December 14, 2018 were approved as written.

**3. Chair's report**

Stroup, the chair, reported that she attended the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) held on January 7, 2019. The Faculty Council attendance policy, which is Class A legislation, will be presented at the next Faculty Senate meeting on January 24, 2019. Assuming it passes, the attendance policy will be effective at the end of January. The chair also presented the council's proposed Class B legislation regarding academic probation. This legislation passed the SEC without amendments and will be presented at the next Faculty Senate meeting. The chair is unable to attend the next Faculty Senate meeting and asked if a faculty member from the council would attend to present the Class B legislation. Phil Brock volunteered to present the legislation. Helen Garrett, University Registrar, will also attend to provide additional support.

The chair notified the council that the administration placed a pause on the DtX proposal for the College of Arts and Sciences. Because of this, Physics is likely to propose to become competitive. Members discussed the difference between and potential issues associated with competitive admission and capacity constraints. The chair also noted that Math is experiencing a capacity issue. They are exploring alternative options, and so FCAS may be asked to review more online options and distance learning.

The chair commented that the UW Curriculum Committee is seeing significantly more issues with syllabi (required medical notes, unreasonable expectations around emergencies, participation without

justification, etc.). Because of this, the UW Curriculum committee will now send syllabi back to the college for revisions, rather than send back to the department.

The chair forwarded the overlapping course issue with P.Bio to the Senate Committee on Planning and Budgeting (SCPB).

Finally, the chair noted FCAS accomplishments thus far: 1503 template for substantial program changes, syllabus best practices (w/ updated medical note language), holistic review of enrollment management, Class B legislation on academic probation.

#### **4. Discussion and vote on Class B Legislation (CR / NC grade cutoff)**

The chair drafted a background and rationale statement for the Class B (Exhibit 1). The council made minor edits and then voted to forward it to the SEC.

#### **5. Vote on Class C resolution language (medical excuse notes)**

The chair drafted a Class C resolution (Exhibit 2). The council reviewed the draft and then voted to forward it to the SEC.

#### **6. Discussion and vote on draft of FCAS AoK policy**

The chair presented draft language for an FCAS Areas of Knowledge (AoK) policy (Exhibit 3). The council made edits to the document and then voted to approve the document. The Council Analyst will add the policy to the FCAS website.

#### **7. Good of the order**

The chair presented a course dispute between Electrical Engineering (EE) and Math. This course dispute is similar to the P.Bio overlap issue; however, the council felt the issues associated with EE and Math could more easily be resolved if capacity was increased in the existing Math course.

#### **8. Adjourn**

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

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

**Present:** **Faculty:** Sarah Stroup (Arts & Sciences) (chair), D. Shores (Business), John Sahr (Engineering), Phil Brock (Arts & Sciences), Dan Ratner (Engineering), Ann Huppert (Built Environments), Radhika Govindrajan (Arts & Sciences), Joel Thornton (Environment)  
**Ex-officio reps:** Meera Roy, Angelia Miranda, Jennifer Payne, Conor Casey, Dan Feetham  
**Guests:** Michaelann Jundt, Robert Corbett, Helen Garrett, Emily Leggio

**Absent:** **Faculty:** Lynn Dietrich (Education), Champak Chatterjee (Arts & Sciences), Zhi Lin (Arts & Sciences), Mike Lockwood (Naval ROTC)

**President's designee:** Philip Ballinger  
**Ex-officio reps:** Melissa Saiz-Matheny

**Exhibits**

Exhibit 1 – CR ND Legislation Language – Final.docx

Exhibit 2 – Class C Medical Notes – Final.docx

Exhibit 3 – AoK Policy.docx

Class B Legislation  
Student Governance and Policies  
Scholastic Regulations  
Chapter 110; Section 1 (The Grading System), A (System of Grades),  
7 (Credit / No Credit)

### Background and Rationale

The Faculty Council on Academic Standards recommends to amend Scholastic Regulation Chapter 110 (The Grading System) based on the following findings:

- There are current inconsistencies in University of Washington grading practices, with no university-wide standard grade cutoff for the Credit / No Credit designation.
- An emendation to Scholastic Regulations will put this grading designation in line with the University's numerically-graded courses.

#### **Credit/No 7) Credit**

- a) With appropriate departmental review and approval, faculty may offer a course or courses on a CR/NC basis. The standard for granting credit in CR/NC courses shall be the demonstration of competence in the material of the course ~~to the instructor's satisfaction.~~ Grading should be consistent with the university's policy for numerically graded courses, in which students receive credit for grades of 0.7 or greater. Students demonstrating such competence shall have CR entered on the transcript; those who do not shall have NC entered on the transcript.

**Class C Resolution Concerning Requests for Medical and Legal Documentation of Student Absences**

WHEREAS requiring medical or legal documentation of absence places a burden on faculty, in that the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) imposes legal requirements upon those who possess the medical information of others; and

WHEREAS requiring medical or legal documentation of absences places a burden on health care providers, in particular those at Hall Health, in that requests for “medical excuse notes” consume valuable time that could be spent treating students; and

WHEREAS requiring medical or legal documentation of absences places a burden on students, in that requiring such documentation discriminates against students who do not have access to medical or legal providers; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that instructors are *strongly discouraged* from requiring medical or legal documentation for a student for any absences.

## **Faculty Council on Academic Standards (FCAS) Policy Pertaining to Areas of Knowledge**

To receive Areas of Knowledge Designation (VLPA, I&S, NW), at least 50% of the content must consist of material directly related to a specific Area of Knowledge; engagement with and mastery of that Area of Knowledge must be expressed on the syllabus; and relevance of that Area of Knowledge to the course as a whole must be included in the Learning Goals of the course. A course may receive a designation for no more than two Areas of Knowledge.

Descriptions of Areas of Knowledge can be found [here](#).