

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Academic Standards

May 11th, 2018
1:30pm – 3:00pm
Gerberding 142

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Call to order
 2. Review of the minutes from April 27th, 2018
 3. Chair's report
 4. New language for Residency status for matriculated admissions
 5. Visit from Dean Stacey and Associate Dean Mihata regarding CAS proposal in progress
 6. SCAP report
 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 of the minutes from April 27th, 2018

The minutes from April 27th, 2018 were approved as written.

3) Chair's report

Stroup reported that Dean Stacey would attend the meeting to present on the Direct-to-Division admissions proposal development in the College of Arts & Sciences (CAS). She clarified the guests are seeking input from the council in addition to sharing information.

It was noted direct admission continues to be an important discussion for all of campus. There are numerous working groups related to the topic. One of the working groups related to holistic admissions may be moved to FCAS.

It was clarified the UW Areas of Knowledge (AoK) definition development is ongoing, along with work on the FCAS Best Practices for Syllabi. Stroup explained the Medical Excuse Notes Policy working group will soon reconvene to go over its original charge.

4) New language for Residency status for matriculated admissions

The council continued its discussion from the last meeting concerning altering the "FCAS Policy on the Use of Residency Status for Admission of UW Matriculated Students to Majors or Programs" in order to account for an appropriation given to UW Computer Science & Engineering (CSE) by the Washington State Legislature (Exhibit 1).

There was discussion relating to the wording of the policy. It was decided to use the language: “save in the case of Washington State specified appropriation” (Exhibit 1). A motion was made and seconded to amend the Policy.

A member raised concerns over using residency of already-matriculated students as criteria for admission to majors or programs. In response, the point was made that state law needs to be followed to receive the funding.

The question was called and seconded. After a vote, the motion passed 8 in favor, 5 opposed, with 1 abstention.

5) Visit from Dean Stacey and Associate Dean Mihata regarding CAS proposal in progress

Dean of CAS, Bob Stacey, and Associate Dean, Kevin Mihata, were present to update FCAS on ongoing development of the CAS proposal to implement a direct-to-division admissions model for the College. The proposal was modeled closely on the College of Engineering direct admission proposal implemented in the 2016-2017 academic year. A handout was shared as part of the presentation (Exhibit 2).

Overview

Dean Stacey went over the holistic admissions process. The problem is that the current system does not take areas of academic interest into account for applicants. More students are applying with the intention of majoring in engineering or one of the natural sciences in the College of Arts & Sciences. On the whole, data shows that STEM students do better in humanities subjects than humanities students do in STEM subjects. Thus, there may be a degree of subtle bias in the current admissions process. An important piece of the admissions process is the strength of the courses taken by a student in high school. AP calculus is considered more rigorous than 4th year French, for example.

Direct-to-division would incorporate area of academic interest into the holistic admissions process, and align the interests of students admitted with the capacity to educate them. The proposal is expected to help fill the humanities seats that have been lost over the last five years. General education requirements would remain the same and students would not be locked into the division they are admitted in.

In order to discourage “gaming” of the system, students will be on an even playing field with other students (during the application process) if they decide to change majors out of the division they were accepted in.

It was noted current applicants want to know they have been accepted by the major they are interested in right away. There are empty seats at UW and direct-to-division would fill those seats and allow more people to graduate with a UW degree. UW is a better university when it has humanities students to help fill out the population.

Questions

Following several questions, it was noted that enrollment in the College of Arts & Sciences is expected to go up following implementation of the direct admissions model. It was clarified that currently all students admitted without declaring a major are placed into the College of Arts & Sciences, as all UW

students need to be connected to a school/college. This would have to change if this proposal were enacted, which may cause a technical issue within the Office of the Registrar.

It was clarified that if this proposal is enacted, it will leave six open (non-capacity constrained) majors at UW. There was a concern that UW may lose students, especially from diverse populations, because they were not aware of all of the different major options or may not know to apply directly to the College of Arts & Sciences. Another member asked if the university has the staff/technical resources to implement the proposal in the next year. The response was no, not as currently set up, but it is possible to bring resources up to speed in the next few years.

Dean Stacey and Associate Dean Mihata were thanked for presenting and answering questions.

6) SCAP report

Routine Business

#1 – Construction Management

The request is for revised program requirements for the Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Management.

The request was approved by majority vote.

#2 – Nutritional Sciences

The request is for revised requirements for the Minor in Nutrition.

The request was approved by majority vote.

Non-routine Business

#1 – Asian Languages and Literature

The request is for a new Minor in Vietnamese Language and Culture.

The request was approved by majority vote.

#2 – Communication

The request is for revised admission and program requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication.

The request was approved by majority vote.

#3 – Landscape Architecture

The request is for revised admission and program requirements for the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree.

The request was approved by majority vote.

7) Good of the order

Nothing was stated.

8) Adjourn

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

Minutes by Jordan Smith, jjmsith4@uw.edu, assistant to the secretary of the faculty

Present: **Faculty:** Sarah Stroup (Arts & Sciences) (chair), Dan Ratner (Engineering), D. Shores (Business), Phil Brock (Arts & Sciences), Lynn Dietrich (Education), Mike Lockwood (Naval ROTC), Zhi Lin (Arts & Sciences), John Sahr (Engineering), Radhika Govindrajan (Arts & Sciences), Daniel Enquobahrie (Public Health), Champak Chatterjee (Arts & Sciences)
President's designee: Philip Ballinger
Ex-officio reps: Navid Azodi, Robin Neal, Meera Roy, Louie Tan Vital, Jennifer Payne
Guests: Emily Leggio, Helen Garrett, Tina Miller, Janice DeCosmo, Robert Corbett, Bob Stacey, Kevin Mihata

Absent: **Faculty:** Ann Huppert (Built Environments)
Ex-officio reps: Conor Casey

Exhibits

Exhibit 1 – fcas_policy_useofresidencystatus_revised_approved_051118

Exhibit 2 – cas_directtodivision_faq_fcas_051118

Faculty Council on Academic Standards (FCAS) Policy on the Use of Residency Status for Admission of UW Matriculated Students to Majors or Programs

Residency status (e.g. WA State, Domestic Non-Resident, International) of UW matriculated students shall not be used as a criterion for admission to majors or programs, save in the case of Washington State specified appropriation.

Approved by FCAS May 11, 2018



FAQ's Regarding Direct-to-Division Admissions

Question 1: What changes is the College of Arts and Sciences proposing to UW's admissions processes?

We are proposing that, starting with the entering class in 2020, all first-year students applying to enter the College of Arts and Sciences will be required to indicate, on their admissions application, which of the four divisions of the College (Arts, Humanities, Natural Sciences or Social Sciences) they wish to enter. The admissions form will make clear which departments are in each division. Students judged admissible to the University of Washington according to the existing admissions criteria will then be admitted competitively to each of the College's divisions based on their demonstrated aptitude for and commitment to the work of the division to which they have applied. The number of students admitted to each of the College's four divisions will be capped so that all students who are admitted into each division will be guaranteed a place in one of the majors within that division when the time comes to choose a major.

Question 2: Are any other UW Colleges doing something similar?

Yes. Several other UW Colleges already offer Direct First-Year Admission (DFA) to their Colleges. The College of Engineering and the Foster School of Business have offered DFA to a limited number of students for many years. Starting in autumn 2018, Engineering will be admitting half of its entering class through DFA. The Allen School of Computer Science will be admitting up to half of its entering class through DFA starting in 2019 or 2020.

Question 3: Why is the College of Arts and Sciences proposing this change?

Like the College of Engineering and the Allen School of Computer Science, the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) has many more admitted UW students applying to major in some of our departments than we can accommodate. This is especially the case in our Natural Sciences departments, but also includes some departments in other divisions. At the same time, however, we have room for MORE students in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences than we are currently enrolling. Direct-to-Division admissions for all first-year students entering CAS will allow us to maintain the current number of students that we can accommodate in the Natural Sciences, while allowing us to accept MORE students in our three other divisions. This will result in an INCREASE in the total number of students who can earn a UW undergraduate degree.



Question 4: How will this change affect the student experience in Arts and Sciences?

We believe this change will be good for our students. Students will be identified as future Arts, Humanities, Natural or Social Science majors from the moment they arrive on campus, providing an intellectual focus for their selection of courses right from the beginning of their academic career. They will be part of a cohort of other students with similar intellectual interests and passions, making their first-year experience more like that of a "college within a college" than it is at present. They will also be guaranteed placement into a major in the division that admitted them. This should reduce considerably the number of students who currently find that they cannot gain entry into their first-choice major. We believe this admissions policy will also allow us to admit more students into UW who are passionately committed to their areas of individual academic interest. This new admissions policy will make the University a more interesting and diverse place for all of our students to live, work, and learn.

Question 5: What about students who want to double or triple major? Will there still be space for them?

Yes. Students will be permitted to double or triple major, as they are now, on a space-available basis.

Question 6: What if a student decides to major in a subject outside the division into which they are admitted? Can they change their minds under this new admissions policy?

Yes. Students who are admitted into one division but decide to major in a different division will be permitted to do so on a space-available basis. Students admitted directly to a specific division will still be encouraged to explore course options across all four of our divisions. All general education and distribution requirements will remain as they are now for all of our students.

Question 7: What about students who are undecided as to their areas of interest? How will they be admitted to UW?

UW will continue to admit as Pre-majors first-year students who have no direct-to-college affiliation. Pre-majors can later apply for placement into any UW major on a space-available basis. There is no guarantee, however, that a Pre-major student will be placed in their first-choice UW college or major, as there will be for students who are directly admitted into Arts and Sciences, Engineering, Computer Science, the Foster School, or any other UW school or college that offers direct freshman admissions.



Question 8: How many students who graduate from Arts and Sciences will have been admitted directly to CAS?

We plan to use the same ratios as Engineering and Computer Science have proposed. 50% of CAS graduates will have been directly admitted as freshmen to CAS; 25% will be transfer students; and 25% will be students who did not apply for direct admission to CAS, but who decided to major in an A&S department after they enrolled at UW as first-year students.

Question 9: Do any other universities have such Direct-To-College Admissions policies?

Yes. Asking prospective first-year students to decide where their academic interests lie, and to apply for admission to the college appropriate to those interests, is quite common around the country at large state universities. For example, the University of Minnesota, the University of Toronto, and the University of California at Davis all admit first-year students directly into colleges and divisions. It is also important to note that at many peer universities, including UC Davis, the four divisions of the UW College of Arts and Sciences (Arts, Humanities, Natural and Social Sciences) would each be a separate college, with a separate admissions process for entry into the College of Fine Arts, the College of Physical Sciences, the College of Biological Sciences, and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs (SCAP) Report

1:30-3:00 p.m.

May 4, 2018, Gerberding 026

Routine Business:

Construction Management ([CM-20170327](#)) Revised program requirements for the Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Management.

Background: The department is proposing changes to the program requirements.

Action taken 05/04/2018: Approved and forwarded to FCAS.

Nutritional Sciences ([SPH-20180322](#)) Revised requirements for the Minor in Nutrition.

Background: The department is proposing changes to the minor requirements.

Action taken 05/04/2018: Approved and forwarded to FCAS, pending verification by department that the math for the proposed credit changes is correct.

Update 05/07/2018: The department has verified the math for the credit changes is correct (p.4).

Non-routine Business:

Asian Languages and Literature ([ASIAN-20180330B](#)) Minor in Vietnamese Language and Culture.

Background: The department is proposing a new minor.

Action taken 04/06/2018: SCAP requested the department provide justification for the minimum grade requirement of 2.0 for each course applied to the minor, and the elective courses be clearly labeled.

Update 04/10/2018: The department has responded (p.4).

Action taken 04/20/2018: SCAP requested clarification regarding elective courses, and a revised elective list.

Update 04/10/2018: The department has responded (p.4).

Action taken 05/04/2018: Approved and forwarded to FCAS.

Communication ([COM-20171227](#)) Revised admission and program requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication.

Background: The department is proposing changes to admission and program requirements.

Action Taken 03/02/2018: SCAP expressed concern about the two year grace period for transfer students. The committee requested an explanation as to why the department cannot continue to accept two equivalent COM courses from community colleges for COM 200.

Update 03/05/2018: The department has responded (p. 8) and revised their 1503 (p. 2).

Action taken 04/06/2018: Given Communication will continue to accept two equivalent COM courses from community colleges for COM 200, SCAP would like to know if transfer students will be able to apply these 10 credits to the Communication major. SCAP asked the department to update their major requirements to require at least 50% of the credits derive from upper-division courses.

Update 04/10/2018: The department has responded (p.4).

Action taken 04/20/2018: SCAP requested major requirement #1 explicitly state COM 201 and COM 202 may substitute for COM 200. SCAP would also like to know if students who took COM 201 and COM 202, have to take another 200-level course as part of major requirement #1.

Update 04/27/2018: The department has responded (p.4).

Action taken 05/04/2018: Approved and forwarded to FCAS.

Landscape Architecture ([LARCH-20180111](#)) Revised admission and program requirements for the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree.

Background: The department is proposing changes to both the admission and program requirements.

Action taken 02/16/2018: SCAP requested the department resubmit their 1503 form, explain why the NW prerequisite courses are not listed under General Education requirements, and provide a signoff from SEFS.

Update 04/26/2018: The department has responded (p.4-11).

Action taken 05/04/2018: Approved and forwarded to FCAS.
