

Faculty Council on Academic Standards annual report for 2015-2016 academic year

During the academic year 2015- 2016, the Faculty Council on Academic Affairs (FCAS) conducted its routine business of approval of undergraduate degrees, majors and minors for the University of Washington Seattle Campus; evaluation of admissions and graduation requirements; and the selection of honors medalists and honors GPA cutoffs. Details of these actions can be found in the meeting minutes, located on the council's page on the UW Faculty Senate website. In addition, the following non-routine business was conducted:

1) Activity-based budgeting (ABB) charge and report

In the spring of 2015, the ABB Review Committee forwarded a letter to chair of FCAS, Patricia Kramer, requesting the council conduct an extensive investigation into the "interconnected set of issues surrounding the effects of ABB on educational collaboration." The council was asked to consider whether the current ABB funding structure provided appropriate incentives or disincentives for:

- a) Joint courses, both "formal" and "informal"
- b) Joint degrees
- c) Access to courses outside of one's college, school, or campus
- d) Balance between undergraduate and graduate courses in a college
- e) Creation of new courses or degree programs
- f) "Poaching" of students from other colleges, schools, or campuses
- g) Inter-campus educational collaboration and competition

FCAS was to consult widely in their analysis, and ended up broadcasting surveys to UW advisors, faculty, deans and chairs at the end of fall quarter. The report was completed and approved by the body on January 8th, 2016.

2) Class C resolution concerning holistic review for majors

The Faculty Senate approved a Class C resolution – submitted by FCAS on May 2, 2016 – concerning holistic review for competitive admissions to majors. The resolution states "the Faculty Senate recommends that units that are capacity constrained use a holistic review process that includes ...personal factors such as school and community service, leadership, overcoming adversity, and family educational and socioeconomic background and academic qualifications in the selection of students who are to be admitted to study in the unit."

3) Class B legislation on Satisfactory/Not Satisfactory grading option

The legislation was approved by the Faculty Senate on May 31, 2016, and allows students a maximum of 20 credits that can be registered using the "satisfactory/non-satisfactory" grading option, which prior to the change was unrestricted.

4) Revision to Syllabus Guidelines

FCAS Syllabus Guidelines were revised mainly to add information on the offering of extra credit, and to improve grammatical clarity of the document. The document states in-part: “extra credit is discouraged. Should it be used, extra credit opportunities must be offered judiciously and not as a replacement for primary course material.”

Council Membership during 2015-16

Faculty: Phil Brock (Economics), John Deehr (Naval Sciences), Mark Johnson (Navy ROTC), Robert Harrison (Forest Resources), Peter Hoff (Statistics), Don Janssen (Engineering), Patricia Kramer (Anthropology), Dan Ratner (Engineering), D. Shores (Accounting), Sarah Stroup (Classics), Thaisa Way (Landscape Architecture), Daniel Enquobahrie (Epidemiology), Champak Chatterjee (Chemistry),

Presidential Designee: Philip Ballinger (Associate vice Provost for Enrollment)

Ex-Officio Representatives: LeAnne Jones Wiles (PSO), Robin Chin Roemer (ALUW), Roy Taylor (ASUW), Vacant (GPSS)