

Faculty Council on Academic Standards annual report for 2014-2015 academic year

During the academic year 2014- 2015, 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. FCAS members worked jointly with members of the Faculty Council on Teaching and Learning (FCTL) to devise a policy for the Distance-Learning (DL) designation for University of Washington Seattle courses. The existing criteria for the designation were outdated and difficult to implement. The guideline was approved by FCAS in early spring of 2015. FCAS discussed these changes with the appropriate groups at UW Bothell and UW Tacoma and collaborated extensively with the Office of the University Registrar. The new policy, in short, states: "A course or section of a course in which students can participate fully without being physically present on campus must be designated as a "DL" course or section" (FCAS Policy on DL designation for UW Seattle courses).
2. The council drafted the FCAS Policy Pertaining to Majors, approved in early fall 2014. The three-page policy also includes the auxiliary information "policies on program based requirements," and "best practices for proposed new majors."
3. The council approved the Policy on Oversight of Courses, which states: "In order to make transparent the process of course approval, this set of guidelines and principles was created by the Faculty Council on Academic Standards (FCAS) in consultation with the Office of the University Registrar. The aim is to document current practice, place that practice within the existing faculty governance structure, and provide a pathway toward course approval upon which University departments can depend" (FCAS Policy on Oversight of Courses). The policy statement also includes information on "equivalency" and "overlap" of courses, as well as how to resolve issues among programs over courses and their content.
4. The council drafted the Policy on Access to Courses and Use of Entry Codes, approved in early April 2015. The document includes guidelines and common practices for the use of course entry codes, which are used by instructors to add students to courses manually.
5. Subsequent to the departure of ex-President Michael Young, and with the initiation of a search for a new president, the council drafted a statement expressing their perspective on the qualities and priorities that successful presidential candidates should have. This statement was forwarded to the presidential search committee chair, Kenyon Chan, and the Faculty Senate senior leadership team. The document, among other things, places growth of majors with competitive admissions and concerns over Activity-Based Budgeting (ABB) at the forefront of university-wide concerns.
6. In late spring 2015, the council was jointly charged by the Faculty Senate, Board of Deans and Chancellors, and the ABB Review Committee to consider an interconnected set of issues relating to

the use of the ABB (Activity-Based Budgeting) funding model at the UW. The council was asked to submit a report on the topic by the end of fall quarter, 2015. The topics of interest to be investigated include:

- a. Joint courses, both “formal” and “informal”
 - b. Joint degrees
 - c. Access to courses outside of a student’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
7. The Subcommittee on Admissions and Graduation advised the council to endorse a 3-year extension to the existing contract between the UW, several other Washington public baccalaureate institutions, and the Statistics Pathway (STATWAY) Pilot Program. The council agreed to extend the contract to July 1, 2018, in order to conduct further analysis concerning benefits of the program to the university.
8. Lead by the Subcommittee on Admissions and Graduation, the council reviewed the freshman holistic admissions process and policies as required by the Student Regulations. The council found that freshmen holistic review was functioning well, given the constraints of State law, but that proposed changes to streamline the process should continue to be evaluated. Additionally, given the 3-fold growth in freshman applicants, the council advised the Provost that additional funds for holistic review should be made available. The Provost agreed.
9. The chair continued to serve on the Enrollment Management Advisory Council.

In the 2015-2016 academic year, under the leadership of returning chair Patricia Kramer, the council anticipates that the following non-routine business will be conducted.

1. The creation of a report on conditions created, exacerbated, or sustained by the Activity-Based Budgeting model (ABB) relating to specific areas of the university. The council has been charged to do this jointly by the Faculty Senate, Board of Deans and Chancellors, and the ABB Review Committee.
2. Review of proposed changes to freshman holistic review will continue. Potentially, Class B legislation may come to the Faculty Senate to modify some aspects of the process.
3. The College of Engineering plans to change the method by which they enroll undergraduate majors, requiring substantive discussion with the Subcommittee of Academic Programs.
4. The development of a joint undergraduate degree with an international university is planned.

Council Membership in 2014-15 Academic Year:

Faculty: Phil Brock (Economics), John Deehr (Naval Science), Robert Harrison (Forest Resources), Peter Hoff (Statistics), Don Janssen (Engineering), Richard Keil (Oceanography), Patricia Kramer (Anthropology), David Pengra (Physics), Dan Ratner (Engineering), D. Shores (Accounting), Sarah Stroup (Classics), Thaisa Way (Landscape Architecture)

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

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