

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

March 4th, 2016
1:30pm – 3:00pm
Gerberding 142

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Call to order
 2. Review of the minutes from February 19th, 2016
 3. SCAP report
 4. S/NS restriction
 5. Report from Subcommittee on Admissions & Graduation
 6. Chair's report
 7. Good of the order
 8. Adjourn
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1) Call to order

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

2) Review of the minutes from February 19th, 2016

The minutes from February 19th, 2016 were approved as amended.

3) SCAP report

Old Non-Routine Business

#1 - Oceanography

The request is for revised program requirements and continuation policy for both the B.A. and B.S. degrees in Oceanography.

Stroup noted this is a major reconfiguration which includes limiting the degrees to accept only the calculus-based physics sequence. It was noted there is no credit increase to the program after this change.

Stroup explained SCAP consulted with the department concerning the ability of transfer students to advance through the program after the change, and all concerns had been addressed.

After discussion subsided, the council approved the request by majority vote.

#2 – College of Education

Stroup noted the College of Education has requested a new competitive undergraduate degree. SCAP advised they consider minimum admission requirements in lieu of a competitive designation, which was

agreed to. It was noted the School of Social Work is currently reviewing the request, as there was some concern of overlap with the School of Social Work's B.A. degree in Social Welfare.

Janssen noted page 13 of the adjoining sample course plan to the 1503 indicates that a number of courses will be taught twice per year. While 100 students per year are projected, he wondered whether that number was reasonable and whether it would be sustainable to offer those courses twice per year if there were significantly fewer than 100 students entering the program each year. The concern was noted by the council.

The request was held by SCAP.

#3 – Computer Science and Engineering

The request is for an Option in Data Science within the B.S degree in Computer Science.

Stroup noted all concerns pertaining to the request were addressed, including sign-off from both Informatics and Applied Computational Math Sciences (ACMS).

Stroup noted SCAP had approved the request.

The council approved the request by majority vote.

Old Routine Business

#1 – Bioethics and Humanities

Stroup explained SCAP denied the request on the basis that the proposed reconfiguration of the minor in Bioethics and Humanities would include offering courses traditionally classified at the UW as Social Sciences, not Humanities. The department did not agree to reconsider the title or contents of the minor and felt the UW should consider following other models for humanities.

The request was denied by SCAP.

New Non-Routines Business

#1 - Physics

The Physics department has requested establishing a competitive admissions process for all options within the B.S degree in Physics, in an attempt to respond to a problem the department faces where students declare the Physics major but do not take any Physics courses. One reason that students may do this is that while students are required to declare a major at 105 credits, there is no requirement to make progress toward graduation each quarter.

Stroup explained SCAP had advised the department implement minimum admissions requirements and a strong continuation policy. The original plan the department devised would be problematic for transfer students. Stroup explained SCAP has recommended a series of alternate ways to reconfigure the proposal, and the Registrar's Office has also offered to help the department set the correct policies. There was some discussion.

Ballinger expressed that the council may benefit from attempting to focus efforts on treating the underlying cause of the problem rather than just the symptoms, perhaps through establishing a task force in the faculty senate to consider university enrollment issues (not only on a unit-by-unit basis). It was noted faculty senate leadership might be encouraged to convene such a taskforce.

Stroup explained the “parking” of students who do not work towards a Physics degree has negative impacts on the students who legitimately desire to become physicists. There was some question if FCAS has a role in considering ways to assist these students, given that no department technically “owns” them. It was noted the students are being helped in some ways, given that new policies will likely cause them to move out of the Physics department and consider the best way to progress their education.

The request was held by SCAP pending revisions by Physics.

New Routine Business

#1 - Landscape Architecture

Landscape Architecture seeks to establish departmental honors requirements for students in the professional Bachelor of Arts in Landscape Architecture (BLA) program. Stroup explained the requirements have been approved by the UW Honors program.

After brief discussion, the request was approved by a majority vote.

#2 – Economics

The request is for revised admission requirements for both the B.S and B.A. degrees in Economics.

It was noted the department request continuing to require a specific writing assessment essay (the RTW) in its admission criteria. FCAS held the request over concerns that transfer students performed worse on the test than UW students, though the data revealed no such correlation.

SCAP approved the request.

The request was approved my majority vote.

4) S/NS restriction

Tina Miller (Registrar’s Office) returned to the council with finalized language for the proposed Satisfactory/Not Satisfactory (S/NS) restriction, which the council had discussed in several of its last meetings (Exhibit 1).

It was noted one pending question pertaining to the restriction relates to incorporation of the language “in good academic standing” (i.e., only allowing students with good academic standing to elect to register in a course under the S/NS grading option).

Discussion ensued. Shores noted allowing grading under S/NS allows a student to try new things. Janssen noted incorporation of the phrase is unnecessary, given that it creates a new requirement to

solve a problem that has not been identified. DeCosmo agreed, and noted she is in favor of removing the “good academic standing” language given that the restriction to 20 credits (to be graded under S/NS) is a strong enough policy. Other members expressed agreement that the language not be incorporated in the new restriction, though there was not total consensus.

After discussion subsided, the language “in good academic standing” was removed from the restriction.

The council voted on approval of the revised Satisfactory/Not Satisfactory restriction language. It was approved by a majority vote.

Kramer explained she would draft Class B legislation and move it forward.

5) Report from Subcommittee on Admissions & Graduation

Janssen explained there was no objection by the Subcommittee on Admissions and Graduation in their last meeting to proposed new criteria (new rule) for evaluating programs who request to go to competitive admissions (to be used by FCAS and SCAP). The new criteria was read aloud to the council:

“Criteria for competitive admission to majors for Autumn quarter for the junior year should not require grades for courses taken later than Winter quarter of the sophomore year.”

It was noted the proposed rule is meant to address the specific problem of departments not making admissions decisions until they are able to view students’ spring quarter grades, causing a delay in decision-making until the middle of summer that sometimes results in students electing to attend other institutions. Current program requirements are “grandfathered” although if a department’s competitive admissions are reconsidered by FCAS for any reason, the new criteria will be taken into account.

It was noted conditional admission decisions are currently commonplace in university admissions (e.g. requiring a student’s final high school GPA to be at a certain level for admission and granting conditional acceptance pending confirmation of the student’s grades).

A vote was held for adoption of the new rule. It was approved by a majority vote of council members.

Janssen explained the Subcommittee on Admissions and Graduation is in the process of developing guidelines for direct admissions into colleges. The report is scheduled to be finalized in April 2016.

6) Chair’s report

Kramer explained she will be the next chair of the Anthropology department and will not chair FCAS in the next academic year (2016-2017). She explained a new FCAS chair has yet to be identified.

Kramer noted she and Stroup met with Computer Science & Engineering (CSE) concerning their process for admission to majors given that Computer Science will not be a part of the College of Engineering admissions change. She explained she also plans to consult with the Foster School of Business concerning its admissions process, as well.

Kramer explained a conversation in the council's last meeting revealed there is no FCAS rule stating that minors cannot be the same (separate minors completed with the same array of courses), and she explained she has found, after investigation, that the same was true for majors. It was assumed by members in the last meeting that these rules existed, though they do not. Janssen explained he became aware of this when conducting an unrelated study wherein he found that three majors could be completed within the same 180 credits.

It was noted students think they are being discouraged from this practice. Ballinger noted he has not seen a policy relating to this at any other university. He explained that in his opinion, if a student has completed the requirements for a major, they should be granted the degree. Kramer noted the university does state that students cannot have more than a certain percentage of their minor credits count towards their major, so there is a precedent for this type of policy.

Brock questioned if there was any harm in this practice. Taylor agreed and noted he would rather invest 45 additional requests into his formal education than into taking arbitrary elective courses. Corbett explained the UW does encourage an interdisciplinary focus in academics. He questioned who such a policy would be directed towards, and if the targeted demographic would be students, or if it would be used in guidelines for developing and approving majors. It was noted the climate of Activity-based Budgeting adds an additional dimension to the discussion.

Kramer explained the topic will be discussed in a future meeting.

7) Good of the order

Ballinger explained the upcoming academic year will be a very selective year in the considering of non-resident and international new students for admission to the UW. He noted the admit rate in fall 2015 was about 55%, and the projected overall admit rate for fall 2016 will most likely be below 45%.

8) Adjourn

Kramer adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Minutes by Joey Burgess, council support analyst, jmbg@uw.edu

Present: **Faculty:** Phil Brock, Don Janssen, Patricia Kramer (chair), Dan Ratner, D. Shores, Sarah Stroup
Ex-officio reps: LeAnne Jones, Roy Taylor, Mel Wensel, Robin Chin Roemer
President's designee: Phil Ballinger
Guests: Robert Corbett, Emily Leggio, Tina Miller, Janice DeCosmo,

Absent: **Faculty:** Mark Johnson, Robert Harrison, Peter Hoff, Thaisa Way, Daniel Enquobahrie, Champak Chatterjee
Ex-officio reps:

Exhibits

Exhibit 1 – S_NS recommendation_fcas_030416.docx

UW Grading Policy regarding the S/NS grading option:

Student Governance and Policies, Scholastic Regulations, Chapter 110

Existing Language	Proposed Language (with changes marked)	Proposed Language (with changes accepted)
<p>6) S/NS</p> <p>a) An undergraduate may earn up to 25 elective credits of the 180 minimum credits required for graduation on a satisfactory/non-satisfactory (S/NS) basis. Each instructor shall report numeric grades to the Registrar, who shall convert satisfactory grades (2.0 or greater) to S, and non-satisfactory grades (less than 2.0) to NS for the student's transcript. S/NS shall not be considered in computation of the grade-point average.</p> <p>b) The student may indicate at the time of registration if she or he elects to take a course on an S/NS basis. The student can change to and from an S/NS option through the seventh week of the quarter through electronic registration. There is no limit to the number of S/NS credits that a student can register for in a given quarter. Withdrawal from an S/NS course is subject to the same regulations as for any other course.</p> <p>c) An instructor may not submit an S or NS in a course. S/NS grades shall appear on the transcript only in the event that the student is registered on an S/NS basis.</p>	<p>6) S/NS</p> <p>a) An undergraduate may earn up to 25 elective credits of the 180 minimum credits required for graduation on a satisfactory/non-satisfactory (S/NS) basis. Each instructor shall report numeric grades to the Registrar, who shall convert satisfactory grades (2.0 or greater) to S, and non-satisfactory grades (less than 2.0) to NS for the student's transcript. S/NS shall not be considered in computation of the grade-point average.</p> <p>b) <u>An undergraduate student in good academic standing may register for up to a maximum of 20 credits under the satisfactory/non-satisfactory basis, with exceptions possible by approval of the campus Registrar.</u></p> <p>c) <u>Subject to the maximum credit limitation above,</u> the student may indicate at the time of registration if she or he elects to take a course on an S/NS basis. The student can change to and from an S/NS option through the seventh week of the quarter through electronic registration. There is no limit to the number of S/NS credits that a student can register for in a given quarter. Withdrawal from</p>	<p>6) S/NS</p> <p>a) An undergraduate may earn up to 25 elective credits of the 180 minimum credits required for graduation on a satisfactory/non-satisfactory (S/NS) basis. Each instructor shall report numeric grades to the Registrar, who shall convert satisfactory grades (2.0 or greater) to S, and non-satisfactory grades (less than 2.0) to NS for the student's transcript. S/NS shall not be considered in computation of the grade-point average.</p> <p>b) An undergraduate student in good academic standing may register for up to a maximum of 20 credits under the satisfactory/non-satisfactory basis, with exceptions possible by approval of the campus Registrar.</p> <p>c) Subject to the maximum credit limitation above, the student may indicate at the time of registration if she or he elects to take a course on an S/NS basis. The student can change to and from an S/NS option through the seventh week of the quarter through electronic registration. There is no limit to the number of S/NS credits that a student can register for in a given quarter. Withdrawal from</p>

	<p>an S/NS course is subject to the same regulations as for any other course.</p> <p>e)d) An instructor may not submit an S or NS in a course. S/NS grades shall appear on the transcript only in the event that the student is registered on an S/NS basis.</p>	<p>an S/NS course is subject to the same regulations as for any other course.</p> <p>d) An instructor may not submit an S or NS in a course. S/NS grades shall appear on the transcript only in the event that the student is registered on an S/NS basis.</p>
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Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs (SCAP) Report

1:30-3:00 p.m., February 26, 2016, Gerberding 026

Old Non-Routine Business:

Oceanography- ([OCEAN-20151118](#)) Revised program requirements and continuation policy for both the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Science degrees in Oceanography.

Background: This request is the result of a 3-year evaluation and design process within the department. See attachment for further details.

Action Taken: 01/15/16 – Hold. Tabled to next SCAP meeting due to time issues.

Action Taken: 01/29/16 – Hold. SCAP requested several questions/clarifications from the department.

Update 02/09/16 – Department has responded to the questions/clarifications, and Tina has reformatted the proposed catalog language for clarity (with the department's permission). See response attachments and updated catalog language.

Action Taken 2/15/16 – Held. SCAP is requesting formal approval of the updates to the continuation policy (which is pending per the department's response), further clarification regarding the change in required Physics coursework, and more context regarding the proposed changes and preparation for graduate work. SCAP would also like the department to begin communication with the Community Colleges now regarding possible effects on transfer students, and ways to work together to mitigate those.

Update 02/23/16 – see department responses in email attachment.

Action Taken 2/26/16: Approve and forward to FCAS

College of Education - ([EDUC-20151103](#)) Bachelor of Arts degree in Education, Communities, and Organizations

Background: The College of Education is proposing a new undergraduate degree similar to ECFS in that it is not a certificated teacher preparation program, but focused on educating students interested in working with K-16 populations in traditional classrooms (para-educators), afterschool programs, youth-serving organizations, health clinics, and a range of professional environments serving adult learners.

Action Taken: 11/20/2015 – Hold. SCAP wants to avoid another competitive major – wants the College to set minimum admission requirements and try to request additional resources if they surpass 65 students per year in the major. What higher education careers would this prepare students for? Look at admission requirements for native students vs transfer students.

Update: The College is discussing SCAP's comments and will reply in January.

Update: 01/12/16 -- See College's reply included in the scan, as well as additional documents.

Action Taken: 01/15/16 – Hold. SCAP still wants to avoid another competitive major. Request College reconsider minimum requirements admission.

Update: 01/26/16 -- College is requesting to launch the major with minimum admission, rather than competitive admission. See memo and updated requirements.

Action Taken: 01/29/16 – Approve and forward to FCAS.

Action taken 02/05/16: Returned to SCAP from FCAS. FCAS noted that while the minimum admission requirements stated the student must have completed or be enrolled in EDUC 280, nowhere is it listed that the student must complete the course (e.g., it is not included in the major requirements). There was also concern regarding whether the subject area of the proposed major overlapped with the School of Social Work's Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Welfare. Department was emailed regarding these questions 2/8/16.

Update 2/9/16 – No response yet from department.

Update 02/23/16 – Department has updated requirements to account for completion of EDUC 280 and listed it in the major requirements per catalog custom, and has reached out to the School of Social Work. See updated material and memo dated 2/23/16.

Action Taken 2/26/16: Approve and forward to FCAS, contingent upon an official response from the School of Social Work indicating that they have no concerns.

Department of Computer Science and Engineering- ([CSE-20151204](#)) Option in Data Science within the Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science.

Background: The School of Department of Computer Science and Engineering wants to establish an option in Data Science within the Computer Science major. Students would take a specified subset of courses from the already listed "CSE Core Courses," and the overall number of credits would remain the same. Both ACMS and Informatics have signed off on the 1503.

Action taken 02/12/16 – Held. SCAP is concerned that the proposed requirements are very restrictive, and would like more information from the department about the ability of students to successfully complete all 4 courses, such as when and how often the courses are offered, the possibility of any substitutions, etc.

Update 2/23/16: The department has sent general information regarding how the courses would likely be offered, and indicated there were some 500-level courses which would likely be accepted as substituted should a student require it. See email.

Action Taken 2/26/16: Approve and forward to FCAS

Old Routine Business:

Bioethics and Humanities - ([BH-20151102](#)) Revised program requirements for the minor in Bioethics and Humanities.

Background: The Bioethics and Humanities department is requesting to eliminate the two core course lists (due to faculty retirement) and move to a model to any 18 credits of B H courses +7 additional credits from an approved list. This will also increase the minimum number of required B H credits from 15 to 18. (Note: Is this change substantial enough to ask them to change the 2.0 in every course to a cumulative 2.00 for courses applied to the minor?)

Action Taken: 12/11/2015 – Hold. Jennifer to contact to ask for more information about what will happen to the Medical History courses and how will this affect the overall Learning Objectives and pedagogical content of the minor. Will it still cover Bioethics and Humanities or just Bioethics?

Update: 01/13/16 -- See response from Department included in the scan.

Action Taken: 01/15/16 – Hold. Due to the loss of such a substantial portion of the minor, SCAP has concerns about whether it is still appropriately named a minor in Bioethics and Humanities. Request to department to reconsider the minor title and contents.

Update: 01/26/16 – no response yet.

Update 02/09/16 – See response from Department included in the scan. Their faculty do not want to change the minor's name. They state that they are committed to the Humanities, and that it is a central part of both their (remaining) curriculum and of the field of bioethics.

Action taken 02/12/16 – Held. SCAP noted that most of the courses being listed as “humanities” by the department are considered “social sciences” at the UW. SCAP would like to see more humanities courses emphasized in the requirements, and offered a suggestion that the department might want to consult with the A&S Divisional Dean for Humanities to identify some courses that could be added to the requirements and elective lists.

Update 02/23/16: The department faculty and chair have received the suggestions, but feel the UW should follow other models for humanities that are inclusive of philosophy, and would like to pursue their case, possibly in person at a SCAP meeting.

Action Taken 2/26/16: SCAP voted to not approve this 1503.

New Non-Routine Business:

Engineering- ([ENGR-20160209](#)) Establishing direct-to-college freshman admission all programs in the College of Engineering.

Background: The College of Engineering proposes to establish a direct-to-college admission pathway and process for freshmen. Freshmen would be admitted to the College of Engineering in a new undeclared status, and then place into an engineering major after completing freshman-level requirements. See proposal and rationale.

Action Taken 2/26/16: Some discussion ensued; no official comments at this time.

Physics- ([PHYS-20160120](#)) Establishing a competitive admissions process for all options within the Bachelor of Science degree in Physics

Background: The Physics department proposes to institute competitive admission for all options within the Physics major. Proposal and rationale attached. Proposal includes two categories: “transcript-based”, for which students must complete all prerequisite courses at the UW within a limited time period prior to the application for admission; and “petition-based,” which would require students to

have completed at least one prerequisite course at the UW (or strongly address this in a personal statement), as well as a personal statement and an interview not requested of the “transcript-based” admission applicants. The A&S Curriculum Committee approved the proposal, but recommends that Physics consider a “holistic” process instead.

Action taken 02/26/16: Hold. SCAP likes the transcript-based proposal as minimum requirement admission and suggests a strong continuation policy to ensure admitted students are committed to the major. SCAP is concerned with the prerequisite of UW only classes and has asked department to work with Registrar’s office and Undergraduate Academic Affairs on the proposal.

New Routine Business:

Landscape Architecture- ([LARCH-20160112](#)) Departmental Honors requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in Landscape Architecture

Background: The Landscape Architecture department would like to establish departmental honors requirements for students in the professional BLA program. Requirements have been approved by the UW Honors program.

Action Taken 2/26/16: Approve and forward to FCAS

Other Business:

[Syllabus Guidelines](#): Review updated syllabus guidelines.

Held Business:

Construction Management - ([CM-20150901](#)) Minor in Construction Management

Background: The Construction Management department wants to establish a minor in that would be available to a very limited population of students. See email from chair of department.

Action Taken: 11/20/2015 – Hold. SCAP likes the minor but it is too restrictive. They need to find a way to open it up to other majors besides CEE or make it an option.

Update: CM is in discussions with CEE and will reply to SCAP’s comments in January.

Update: 01/13/16, 01/26/16, 02/09/16, 2/23/16 – no response yet

Economics- ([ECON-20151207](#) , [ECON-20151217](#)) Revised admission requirements for both the Bachelor of Science and the Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics.

Background: The department is requesting to require a specific writing assessment essay (the RTW) in its admission criteria.

Action Taken: 01/15/16 – Hold. Clarification as to the nature of the change requested on the 1503 needed.

Update: 01/26/16 – Department is seeking permanent approval to use the RTW writing assessment essay in its admissions. It had previously been approved under a 3-year trial period.

Action Taken: 01/29/16 – Approve and forward to FCAS.

Update 2/05/16 – Held at FCAS so members could more thoroughly review the reported data.

Action Taken 2/26/16: Review completed – no concerns. Return to FCAS.

School of Environmental and Forest Sciences - ([ESRM-20160127](#)) Option name change from Landscape Ecology and Conservation (LEC) to Natural Resource and Environmental Management (NREM).

Background: The School of Environmental and Forest Sciences forgot to request this option name change on their last option revision. Change is requested to reflect the recent curricular changes in the option (Aut 2015), and to allow the School to seek NREM option accreditation from the Society of American Foresters.

Action Taken 02/12/16: Held. SCAP would like the program to outline the referenced curricular changes for the committee as part of the request.

Update 02/23/16: department response enroute.

Department of English- ([ENGL-20160107](#)) Minor in Writing.

Background: The English department wants to establish a minor in Writing, designed to provide a concentrated study of and practice in writing.

Action Taken 02/12/16: Held. SCAP has concerns that there is an overall lack of cohesion in the proposed requirements in regard to a focus on writing (as opposed to non-writing courses). There are also questions regarding the frequency at which some of the listed courses are offered, and the demand for the minor.

Update 02/23/16: departmental response enroute.

Department of English- ([ENGL-20160115](#)) Revised admission and program requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree in English.

Background: The English department would like to eliminate the writing link course (ENGL 297) currently required to be taken with the gateway lecture course (ENGL 202) for admission. There are accompanying changes in the number of elective credits required for the degree (to keep the total required credits at 60), and a reduction in the number of 200-level courses allowed toward the degree (to keep the number of 200-level electives permitted constant with the current version).

Action Taken 02/12/16: Held. SCAP would like more information regarding how the writing experience/assessment currently offered by 297 would be accounted for if the course is eliminated as a prerequisite.

Update 02/23/16: departmental response enroute.

Asian Languages and Literature - ([ASIAN-20151119](#)) Revised program requirements for both the Bachelor of Arts degree in South Asian Languages and Literature and the minor in South Asian Languages and Literature.

Background: The department is renumbering its first-, second-, and third-year language courses to be consistent with current practices, and needs to update the requirements listed accordingly. They are also increasing the required language credits for the major by 6, and reducing the South Asian Humanities and Social Sciences credits required by 5, increasing the total credits required for the major from 69 to 70.

Action Taken 02/12/16: Held. SCAP requests that the department include a rationale for the proposed decrease in required South Asian Humanities and Social Sciences credits, and increase in required Language credits.

Update 02/23/16: no response.