

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

February 5th, 2016

1:30pm – 3:00pm

Gerberding 142

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Call to order
2. Review of the minutes from December 18th, 2015 & January 8th, 2016
3. SCAP report
4. S/NS (Tina)
5. Class C resolution on holistic review for majors
6. Update on CoEng proposal
7. Good of the order
8. Adjourn

1) Call to order

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

2) Review of the minutes from December 18th, 2015 & January 8th, 2016

The minutes from December 18th, 2015 were approved as written; the minutes from January 8th, 2016 were approved as amended.

3) SCAP report

Old Non-routine Business

#1 - College of Education

Stroup explained the College of Education is proposing a new undergraduate B.A. degree in Education, Communities, and Organizations. The new major was originally planned by Education to be implemented as a “competitive” major, but SCAP asked if this the competitive designation may be removed. The college agreed to remove the competitive designation and add minimum requirements.

Some concerns relating to the request were noted by council members. These issues will be reviewed by SCAP after the College of Education responds to them.

The request was held.

#2 - Information School

Stroup explained the Information School is requesting to add an option in Data Science within their B.S. degree in Informatics.

Stroup explained the school provided necessary information when prompted, and updated their department catalogue information. SCAP has approved the request.

The request was approved by majority vote of the council.

#3 - Applied and Computational Mathematical Sciences

Stroup explained the request is for revised requirements for the Data Science and Statistics option within the B.S degree in Applied and Computational Mathematical Sciences.

Informatics signed off on the request, Stroup explained. She noted the program also provided additional information that the new version of the option allows students flexibility to complete the same group of courses as they could under the previous version.

There was no discussion.

The request was approved by unanimous vote of the council.

#4 – Economics

Stroup explained the department is requesting revised admission requirements for both the B.S degree and the B.A. degree in Economics to permanently incorporate a specific writing assessment in its admission criteria.

Stroup noted Economics initiated a writing requirement as part of its admissions in the past under trial conditions (3-year trial). She explained they have returned to SCAP after three years to verify the requirement is working as intended and to request the criteria become permanent. The goal of the change was to improve the writing of upper-level work in Economics. The department also addressed concerns of international students, in that the requirement may negatively impact their ability to enroll in the major. There was some discussion of the overall number of economics majors. This number has not changed in a big way, noted one member. There was more discussion of the proportion of international students who did not pass this writing test during the trial period.

The request was held pending additional analysis of the data provided by Economics.

#5 - International Studies

Stroup explained the request is for revised program requirements for the B.A. degree in Jewish Studies and the Minor in Jewish Studies.

Stroup explained the department is seeking to combine two tracks into a single-track Jewish Studies Major and to update the Minor. The proficiency testing for the language requirement was questioned by SCAP, and the issue was corrected.

Ballinger (president's designee) noted there is growing issue at the university in that departments do not offer internal assessments of language proficiency yet incorporate language requirements, creating

a burden on students. It was noted financial aid often cannot be used for language proficiency tests. A member explained the issue is worse if the language in question is also not taught at the UW.

There was no more discussion.

The request was approved by unanimous vote of the council.

#6 – Oceanography

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

Several concerns and questions were noted in relation to the request by council members:

- Requirement for 2.0 GPA in all courses in the major with no consequences defined if not met
- Difficulty for transfer students meeting the criteria for entry into the program
- Question of course equivalencies and if they remain intact

It was noted the change is well-intentioned, but has substantial implementation issues. The purpose of the change was explained. It was noted students have found it hard to advance through the program in four years, and this is an attempt to compress some of the required science courses into a smaller amount of oceanography courses.

The request was held by SCAP pending clarifications from Oceanography, Stroup reported.

#7 - Program on the Environment

The request is for revised program requirements and for a new or revised continuation policy and honors requirements for the B.A. degree in Environmental Science.

It was noted Honors signed off on this, and several elements were clarified after question from SCAP.

There was no discussion.

The request was approved by unanimous vote of the council.

Old Routine Business

#1 - College of Education

Stroup explained the request is for revised admission requirements for the B.A degree in Early Childhood and Family Studies.

SCAP approved this request.

There was no discussion.

The request was approved by unanimous vote of the council.

4) S/NS (Tina)

This agenda item will be held for the next FCAS meeting, as a change to restrictions on Satisfactory/Not Satisfactory courses will require Class B legislation, and the UW Registrar's Office will aid the council by offering language to be included in this legislation.

Miller introduced Marianne Ramos, a new staff member in-training in the Office of the Registrar in the role of Program Assistant.

5) Class C resolution on holistic review for majors

A Class C resolution on Holistic Review for Majors has been crafted by Kramer and others (Exhibit 1). Kramer explained several other faculty council chairs have reviewed the resolution and are planning to have it reviewed by their full councils as well. Kramer explained her hope is that the language for the resolution may be finalized and approved today, allowing the resolution to progress through both the joint-faculty council of Multicultural Affairs and Women in Academia (FCMA/FCWA), as well as the Faculty Council on Student Affairs (FCSA).

Kramer explained a Class C resolution goes before the faculty senate for approval and, if approved, is announced electronically to all UW faculty.

Ballinger thanked Kramer for her work and asked if a deeper background into the subject matter of the resolution should be written into the resolution. Kramer explained she plans to give this background when she presents the resolution within the faculty senate meeting wherein it is on the agenda.

Other council members posed adding more language to the resolution. Ultimately, it was decided the resolution should retain its simplicity and keep to the point to increase digestibility and its chances of being approved in the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) and the faculty senate.

After question, Kramer noted her vision is that trainings for holistic review should occur at the department level, and the ratification of this resolution would be the first step in FCAS' effort to progress an initiative along those lines. Kramer explained FCAS needs to help facilitate admission into competitive majors at the UW.

Brock noted it is arbitrary how some departments/programs admit students. He read aloud one department's admission criteria for council members, and members agreed it is vague. It was noted there are no trainings for conducting these decisions, and a formal, standard holistic evaluation process is needed that states which practices and criteria for admission are "okay" and which are "not okay". Members agreed and noted the council has no resource to point departments to when it comes to improving their admission practices.

Stroup explained "interrupting bias" trainings are already available, as are asbestos trainings, and several other types, many of which are mandatory. She explained admission committees should have required trainings such as these for conducting holistic reviews of applicants.

More suggestions were made for ways to tool the language, though the council feared crafting the resolution in a way that caused it to read like a rule or regulation, so no changes were implemented. It was noted after approval of the resolution, more specific next steps will be defined.

Kramer reiterated the resolution will go to other faculty councils for their endorsements, comments, or changes.

The council took a vote to approve the Class C resolution's language and forward it to other faculty councils. There was no more discussion.

The Class C resolution was approved as written by unanimous vote and will be forwarded on.

6) Update on CoEng proposal

Kramer explained that the Department of Physics has a 1503 in the works to go to competitive admissions. She explained Kevin Mihata (Associate Dean for Educational Programs, College of Arts and Sciences), who is working on the request, has requested this be forwarded to FCAS for a "preliminary review." After some discussion, the council consensus was that the College of Arts & Sciences needs a complete 1503 before it is forwarded to SCAP for FCAS pre-review, which is the proper, routine procedure.

Kramer noted there is nothing substantive to report on the state of the proposed College of Engineering enrollment method change.

7) Good of the order

Ballinger explained there has been a public records request for all applications of freshman students at the UW from the fall of 2014. He explained the UW's attorneys and other experts are only semi-confident students protected under FERPA are excluded from this request, creating an issue relating to a breach of privacy (as FERPA allows students the right to have control over the disclosure of personally identifiable information from their educational records). Ballinger explained the motivation for initiating the public records request is unknown.

He explained there is an effort underway to alter the public records law in the State of Washington through the Washington State Legislature, though this has not been advanced in the 2016 Legislative Session, but is planned for the next session in the following year. Ballinger explained under FERPA, the public records request in question would require a redaction of personal information from more than half a million pages of documentation, yielding a mammoth logistical task. Ballinger explained the requester may be okay with some subset of the data given the logistical concerns. He explained he will give more updates to the council as they come in.

8) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

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

Present:

Faculty: Phil Brock, Mark Johnson, Don Janssen, Patricia Kramer (chair), Dan Ratner, D. Shores, Sarah Stroup

Ex-officio reps: LeAnne Jones Wiles, Robin Chin Roemer, Roy Taylor, Mel Wensel

President's designee: Phil Ballinger

Guests: Janice DeCosmo, Robert Corbett, Emily Leggio, Tina Miller, Marianne Ramos

Absent:

Faculty: Robert Harrison, Peter Hoff, Thaisa Way, Daniel Enquobahrie, Champak Chatterjee

Ex-officio reps: Aaron Vetter

Exhibits

Exhibit 1 – Class C on holistic review for majors_fcas_winter2016.doc

Class C Resolution

WHEREAS, the University of Washington admits "...those students deemed best able to contribute to and benefit from the educational programs and opportunities offered at the University"¹; and

WHEREAS, some units are capacity constrained in that they receive more applications from qualified students than the unit can accommodate in their major course(s) of study; and

WHEREAS, the University of Washington recognizes that an "...important and essential component of any educational program is the exchange of information and life experiences through a diverse student body, with representatives from all cultural backgrounds given opportunity at participation"¹; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate recommends that units that are capacity constrained use a holistic review process that includes both academic qualifications and "...personal factors such as school and community service, leadership, overcoming adversity, and family educational and socioeconomic background"² in the selection of students who are to be admitted to study in the unit.

¹ Board of Regents Governance, Policy No. 4, Policy on Admission.

² University of Washington Student Regulations Chapter 101.2.A.

submitted by:

Patricia Ann Kramer, Chair
On behalf of
Faculty Council on Academic Standards

With concurrence of:
Faculty Council on Multicultural Affairs
Faculty Council on Women in Academia
Faculty Council on Student Affairs