

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

October 16, 2015
1:30pm – 3:00pm
Mary Gates Hall 173R

Meeting synopsis:

- 1) Call to order
 - 2) Approval of minutes from October 2nd, 2015
 - 3) SCAP report
 - 4) Chair's report
 - 5) FCAS 2015-2016 charge letter
 - 6) ABB brainstorm
 - 7) Good of the order
 - 8) Adjourn
-

1) Call to order

Kramer called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2) Approval of minutes from October 2nd, 2015

The minutes from October 2nd, 2015 were approved as amended.

3) SCAP report

Old Non-Routine Business

#1 – Integrated Sciences

The program has requested authorization to establish new departmental honors requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Integrated Sciences. Stroup noted that SCAP had approved the request.

The request was approved by majority vote of the council.

New Routine Business

#1 – Honors

The program has requested revised requirements for the Interdisciplinary Honors Program. Stroup reported that the request was originally missing some of its accompanying documentation, and so was held by SCAP. The documentation has now been received, and SCAP has approved and forwarded the request to the council.

A member noted a concern with a decrease in the number of allowable ad hoc HONORS credit, which may cause difficulty for students in majors with few elective credits (such as engineering). Other council

members agreed that the concern is legitimate and constitutes grounds for gathering more information before a vote for approval is taken. It was also noted that the adjoining 1503 form did not indicate other colleges had been consulted over this request.

Kramer explained that the request will be held until more information is gathered relating to the noted concerns.

#2 - School of Music

The request is for revised admission requirements for all majors within the School of Music. Stroup noted SCAP had approved this request.

The request was approved by majority vote of the council.

#3 - Slavic languages and literature

The request is for revised program requirements for both options within the Bachelor of Arts degree in Slavic Languages and Literature.

Stroup noted SCAP approved this request, which is simple in its nature (request to change all prefixed courses to "SLAVIC" instead of "SLAV").

The request was approved by majority vote of the council.

#4 – School of Environmental and Forest Sciences

The request is for revised program requirements for all options within the Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science and Terrestrial Resource Management to clarify the listed program requirements and approved list of electives.

Stroup noted SCAP had approved this request.

The request was approved by majority vote of the council.

4) Chair's report

New university president

Kramer noted a new president for the University of Washington has been formerly selected and inducted: Ana Mari Cauce, former interim president. The council expressed congratulations for the decision.

Offering of extra credit / grading on participation

Kramer noted she will be meeting with members of the Center for Teaching & Learning (CTL) to discuss the offering of extra credit and grading on course participation; this topic came up in the last FCAS meeting as a potential area of severe unfairness for students, with conversation culminating with a

recommendation that FCAS consider publishing guidelines on the offering of extra credit & grading on course participation, including required field trips outside of normal class meeting times.

Kramer noted the CTL currently does not have anything on their website referring explicitly to methods for assessing “active learning” components. She noted that the plan is for FCAS to develop a guideline, and the CTL will author the “how-to” instructional portion for offering extra credit and grading on course participation. She noted she hopes to be able to report back to the council on this matter in the next meeting.

Faculty unionization / to be addressed in the faculty senate

Kramer informed the council that the faculty senate will be addressing unionization in its December 3rd meeting. She noted she would like the council to address the question of faculty unionization in the context of unionization’s potential effects on the academic standards of the university. She explained that if there are substantive recommendations from FCAS on the matter, she will deliver the thoughts of the council to the full faculty senate during the December 3rd meeting. Kramer then asked for discussion on the topic.

A member noted that in his experience, there has been no effect on academic standards in the universities whose faculty have unionized. Taylor (ASUW representative) noted the majority of the students within the ASUW (Associated Students of the University of Washington) do not know or understand what effect faculty unionization will have on academic standards, nor do they have knowledge of the amount of UW faculty who support unionization. Another member noted he expects “teaching” would improve subsequent to unionization, and “research” would decline.

Kramer noted that an additional conversation on this subject within FCAS seems warranted, given the immediate feedback.

5) FCAS 2015-2016 charge letter

Kramer presented the FCAS 2015-2016 charge letter to the council (Exhibit 1). She explained that the council’s goals listed within the document have been gleaned from her own expectations for council activities during the 2015-2016 academic year.

A member noted he would like to add a goal within the council’s charge letter related to addressing competitive admissions at the UW. After discussion, the council agreed, and specific language for inclusion into the document was developed. The exact goal the council expressed interest in incorporating into the document was:

- “Evaluation of competitive majors: including how students are admitted and the effect of competitive majors on time-to-graduation.”

Kramer noted she would send the above “goal” to faculty senate leadership with a request for inclusion into the council’s charge letter, and report back.

The council also expressed an interest in posting its guidelines and policies in a more public venue within the faculty senate website (it currently resides within its own webpage, a few “clicks” in from the faculty senate website’s front page).

The council then discussed a “resources for faculty” webpage, to be hosted by the UW blanket website. Members noted FCAS hosts several guidelines for faculty, which are not easily found by UW faculty. Kramer noted she would look into this.

6) ABB brainstorm

The council held substantive discussion on Activity-Based Budgeting as part of its charge to investigate ABB’s impacts on educational collaboration (charge from the ABB Review Committee and Faculty Senate).

Outreach

There was an idea to create a survey to send to departmental chairs asking about their experiences with ABB. Questions should include what they have done as chairs, what others have done that affected them and what they think. This could include both questions about what the situation is now, and how they think it might affect them in the future.

There was another idea to create a different survey for Deans asking similar questions.

There was a recommendation that ABB credit should always go to the department that pays the course instructor, without regard for who “owns” the course. The council noted complications arise with TA funding.

Questions

- a. Why is there a difference in the ABB “credit” among the colleges/schools?
- b. How is the split between SCH and majors determined? Why are grad courses different?
- c. Are self-supported students always not counted in ABB? In other words, is there any case when they are counted? We think not, but confirm?
- d. ABB was supposed to allow for the tuition dollars to follow the students, presumably to enhance student learning. Has anyone looked to see where the money has gone? If so, where? If not, why not?
- e. Has average class size increased in typical courses since the implementation of ABB? This might be best done for all levels of courses (100, 200, 300, 400, grad).
- f. Have there been any impacts among the campuses that are attributable to ABB?

**These are in addition to the ABB charge letter’s stated questions for investigation.*

General discussion

- A member explained that under the current ABB model, a department could theoretically gain ABB-credit simply by offering a major wherein they do not have to actually teach any of the associated

courses. He noted a department could potentially accrue ABB credit “without ever stepping into a classroom.” The member noted he does not want to see UW departments offering majors that they do not teach any of the courses for, but still gain ABB credit for – which is possible under the current model.

- Another member noted his department has a mixed master’s program where some students are self-supported, and some are paying tuition, all within the same classroom. This begs to question: are only the tuition-paying students apportioning ABB credit for the course?
- A member noted his department was paying him to teach a course, and the ABB credit for the course was not going to his department (not congruent with stated ABB credit allotment model). Another council member noted the same discrepancy in their department.
- Kramer noted “transparency” was supposed to be one major goal of implementing ABB at the UW. She questioned if the original goal of funds from ABB going toward enhancing the student experience had been attained. It was noted that Deans currently do not consult with the Provost concerning the ways in which they spend their ABB dollars.

Inclusion of FCTCP representative

Kramer noted she will be meeting with Faculty Council on Tri-campus Policy chair Bill Erdly, to discuss the contribution of that body to future FCAS discussions on ABB.

7) Good of the order

Nothing was stated for the good of the order.

8) Adjourn

Kramer adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

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

Present: **Faculty:** Phil Brock, John Deehr, Robert Harrison, Peter Hoff, Don Janssen, Patricia Kramer (chair), Dan Ratner, D. Shores, Sarah Stroup, Daniel Enquobahrie, Champak Chatterjee
Ex-officio reps: Leanne Jones Wiles, Roy Taylor
Guests: Janice DeCosmo, Robert Corbett, Matt Winslow

Absent: **Faculty:** Thaisa Way
President’s designee: Phil Ballinger
Ex-officio reps: Robin Chin Roemer, Aaron Vetter, Mel Wensel

Exhibits

Exhibit 1 – fcas_chargeletter_fall2015



October 6, 2015

Professor Patricia Kramer
Chair, Faculty Council on Academic Standards

Dear Professor Kramer:

The Faculty Council on Academic Standards is charged with responsibility “for matters of university policy relating to the academic affairs of the university, such as admissions policy, scholastic standards, university graduation requirements, and inter-institutional academic standards” (Faculty Code, Sec 42-34). Activities historically performed include 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.

Our recommendation is that the council identify 3 specific goals that can be accomplished by the end of the 2015-16 academic year.

The Senate office did a background review to help identify goals for your council. This included review of minutes from last year’s meetings, review of discussions at Faculty Senate meetings, and selected outreach for topics. Recommended goals and / or topics for discussion include:

- Create a report addressing the interconnected set of issues surrounding the effects of ABB on educational collaboration inviting at least one member from the Faculty Council on Tri-Campus Policy to join discussions and present preliminary findings to the ABB Review Committee and Faculty Senate at the end of autumn quarter.
- Evaluate proposed changes to freshman holistic review, and where warranted provide feedback or potential revisions to the Associate Vice Provost for Enrollment, the council’s presidential designee.
- Respond with due diligence to the expected College of Engineering proposal to change the method by which they enroll undergraduate majors.

After your first council meeting we will be available to discuss the goals your council identified. Thereafter, we will post your council’s goals on the Faculty Senate Website to communicate the important work you are doing on their behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norm Beauchamp', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Norm Beauchamp
Faculty Senate Chair, Professor of Radiology