

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

June 12, 2015
1:30pm – 3:00pm
Gerberding 142

Meeting Synopsis:

- 1) Call to order
 - 2) Review of the minutes from May 29th, 2015
 - 3) SCAP
 - 4) Chair's report
 - 5) Good of the order
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1) Call to order

Kramer called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

2) Review of the minutes from May 29th, 2015

The minutes from May 29th, 2015 were approved as amended.

3) SCAP

New Routine Business

#1 - Education

A member noted the request consists of minor changes to the Minor in Education, Learning, and Society. Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs (SCAP) members explained the request is of a routine nature.

Kramer asked the council for any discussion; there was none.

The request was approved by majority vote of the council.

New non-routine Business

#1 - Aeronautics and Astronautics

Aeronautics and Astronautics proposes a minor "to serve non-aero STEM majors considering multidisciplinary careers and non-aero STEM students wishing to pursue aero-based graduate work" (SCAP report, June 5th, 2015). Keil noted the plan was well-received by SCAP, as the unit has worked together with appropriate curriculum analysts to get everything in order. The introduction of this minor will improve overall access of offered courses in Aeronautics and Astronautics.

The council held some prolonged discussion surrounding the possibility that this minor will be difficult to complete in the four year graduation goal established for undergraduates. Kramer pointed out that

many of the issues relating to that concern are outside of the council's ability to arbitrate. Some council members found the minor addition to be an advantageous option for certain groups of students, and others remarked that Boeing has made specific requests for more graduates with a background in this field.

Kramer noted she does not see any grounds for declining this request, and Aeronautics and Astronautics have confirmed that they understand that they will have to do an RCEP (Reorganization, consolidation, and elimination procedures [Section 26-41, Faculty Code]) should they want to eliminate the minor in the future.

The council approved the request unanimously.

All other requests

It was noted that all other items included in the SCAP report will be discussed in the fall 2015, as each has been held by SCAP for further review.

Course forms

After some discussion of lab hours, the council held a vote to approve the revised "course change" and "course creation" forms.

The forms were approved by majority vote.

It was noted the revised forms will be posted on the UW curriculum website. These changes are associated with the newly adopted FCAS definition of a Distance Learning course (DL).

4) Chair's report

Kramer noted she has met with the Senate Committee on Planning and Budgeting (SCPB) to discuss the admission application fee question previously discussed by FCAS (using funds accrued from the fee to support the UW Office of Admissions). She noted has asked them to endorse the related FCAS resolution (drafted by members of FCAS and approved by vote of the council in its May meeting) - which was also agreed to.

Kramer thanked David Pengra and Rick Keil for having served on the council, as both members' terms have expired, and they will not be returning next year. The council also thanked both members, noting their adept leadership in numerous council activities. Kramer noted current membership will remain mostly intact for the next academic year, with a possibility of addition of a few new members.

5) Good of the order

Enrollment data by area of study / council discussion

The council held prolonged discussion with members of the Office of the University Registrar concerning a PowerPoint presentation projected in the meeting, which shows data on UWS course enrollment numbers. This information can be used to see which courses and areas of study are experiencing an uptake or decline in their enrollment, to some degree.

A council member asked if the data includes online sections. Matt Winslow (Senior Associate Registrar, Policy and Procedure, Office of the Registrar) explained that the shown data does incorporate online sections.

A council member noted that a variety of factors could potentially contribute to the amount of “filled seats” in a given course, and these numbers do not necessarily exclusively correlate with overall demand for that course. It was noted however, that it is well-documented that STEM disciplines are growing in overall popularity at UW and other American universities, with many freshman admits expressing desire to join those fields exclusively.

There was an interest on behalf of the council to look into this data vs. data on increases in student population size side-by-side for a more comprehensive analysis.

One council member noted it is known that more course sections can be offered by a department if the number of labs associated with the course are cut back. Many members noted this is an example of quantity being made to undercut quality in today’s universities. Others noted this problem is deeply rooted and has yet to be “unearthed” at UWS.

The council noted it would be beneficial to see what percentage of students are taking courses at community colleges and transferring those credits to the UW and in which fields this occurs predominantly.

As the council has a confirmed charge from the ABB Review Committee and SCPB to address problems associated with Activity-Based Budgeting at the UW, the “quantity undercutting quality” issue may align well for the council’s activities in the next academic year.

UW Honors Program problem

A member pointed out a problem with the approval of a 1503 form sent from the UW Honors Program. The request was approved by SCAP despite lacking necessary attachments, and recently deeper issues have been noticed when materials were evaluated.

After discussion, the council found that the earliest anything can be done would be fall, 2015. Some members asked SCAP to address the concerns in their early fall meetings.

UW Bothell / Name of minor / replication

Janssen noted UW Bothell is proposing a new minor with the exact same name (title) as one on the Seattle campus; he explained that the bottom of the adjoining 1503 should have included a sign-off from the department administering the minor-name that was replicated, but did not. Kramer noted she had also made note of this and has sent information on the issue to various stakeholders on the UWS campus.

Expected Council Activities 2015-2016

The council listed some of the expected activities for the upcoming 2015-2016 academic year:

- I. Possibility of a joint-degree with the national university of Singapore.
- II. Possibility of substantial changes to admissions
- III. Direct freshman admission to the College of Engineering
- IV. Substantive change from Oceanography major
- V. TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) and “what it means, how we think about it.”
College of Arts & Sciences is also deliberating the topic; FCAS conversation will intersect with theirs
- VI. Regular business of curriculum approvals
- VII. Charge to the council for investigating impacts of Activity-Based Budgeting
- VIII. Potential survey of departments on how many students they can enroll (noted to have been carried out 15-20 years ago)

6) Adjourn

Kramer adjourned the meeting at 2:37 p.m.

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

Present: **Faculty:** Phil Brock, John Deehr, Robert Harrison, Don Janssen, Richard Keil, Patricia Kramer (chair), David Pengra, Dan Ratner, D. Shores, Thaisa Way
Ex-Officio reps: LeAnne Jones Wiles
Guests: Matt Winslow, Robert Corbett, Tina Miller, Janice DeCosmo, Emily Leggio

Absent: **Faculty:** Robert Harrison, Peter Hoff, Sarah Stroup
President’s designee: Phil Ballinger
Ex-Officio reps: Robin Chin Roemer, Hailey Badger