

University of Washington  
Faculty Council on Academic Standards  
May 15, 2015  
1:30pm – 3:00pm  
Gerberding 142

**Meeting Synopsis:**

- 1) Call to order
  - 2) Review of the minutes from May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015
  - 3) Presidential search recommendation
  - 4) SCAG—holistic review funding recommendation
  - 5) SCAG—STATWAY extension
  - 6) Chairs report
  - 7) Good of the order
  - 8) Adjourn
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**1) Call to order**

Kramer called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

**2) Review of the minutes from May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

The minutes from May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 were approved as amended.

**3) Presidential search recommendation (Exhibit 1)**

Keil noted Presidential Search Recommendation document has been heavily edited with the council's feedback taken into account (Exhibit 1).

Kramer noted the document will be forwarded to the presidential search committee if it is approved by the council in today's meeting. She reminded the council that Norm Beauchamp (Senate vice chair) will be the faculty senate representative for the presidential search, as one the search committee members.

Robert Corbett (President, Professional Staff Organization) noted that no professional staff had been included in the membership of the presidential search committee. Kramer suggested that he should address any concerns of the Professional Staff Organization (PSO) to the chair of the presidential search committee, and he should also copy faculty senate leadership on any correspondence.

The document was approved by unanimous vote of the council.

**4) SCAG—holistic review funding recommendation (Exhibit 2)**

Janssen noted this topic is not coming from the FCAS Subcommittee on Admissions and Graduation (SCAG) directly, but from himself, as chair and spokesperson for the body.

Janssen presented a document titled “Admissions Budget” for the council to review (Exhibit 2). He explained that the short document requests that the budget for the Office of Admissions be commensurate with the number of applicants to the university, as current levels of support have resulted in “streamlining of the holistic review process” (Exhibit 2).

Janssen asked for council feedback on the document. Ballinger (president’s designee) noted he agrees with the proposed wording. Kramer questioned to whom the document should be sent for effecting change. Ballinger explained there is an ongoing conversation being held currently which includes an idea for a formula to be applied that drives an increase in revenue for the Office of Admissions based on an increase in applications to be reviewed. He noted any such formula would have to be approved as part of the entire budget process. Ballinger explained the document should be forwarded to university Provost Jerry Baldasty. Kramer added she would inform Kate O’Neill (Faculty Senate chair) and Norm Beauchamp (Faculty Senate vice chair) about the document and the associated issues. Ballinger explained that the document’s drafting is timely as other efforts are already underway concerning this topic.

#### *Council edits*

The council prescribed the following changes to the document, most of which were based on grammatical accuracy:

1. Deletion of the comma immediately following the word “two” in the second sentence of the second paragraph.
2. Deletion of the clause “While it is hoped that this streamlining does not compromise the heretofore excellent results of the holistic review process,” (first clause of the third paragraph).
3. Deletion of the words “of support” in the last sentence of the document.

Kramer asked if there were any other prescribed changes; the council expressed they had none.

The document was approved by unanimous vote of the council.

#### **5) SCAG—STATWAY extension** (Exhibit 3)

Janssen explained that this topic is coming to the council on behalf of the Subcommittee on Admissions and Graduation. He explained the UW retains certain requirements for admission to the university, although some of these requirements can be waived upon special conditions. The math requirement, Algebra II, cannot be waived. SCAG will be holding discussions over the relevancy of this requirement, with focus on the actual desired outcomes for applicants to the University.

Kramer asked the timeline for addressing the matter. Janssen explained the review will happen next year (2015-2016). It was noted these minimum math requirements are included in the UW student regulation handbook. Moreover, Algebra II is also the state minimum math requirement for Washington college freshman. There was some discussion of which guiding documents/regulations would need to be changed in association with altering the university’s Algebra II requirement. Leggio noted roughly 90% of freshman students applying to the UW have more than the state minimum requirement for math. The problem persists with transfer students. She explained that with transfer students, the UW runs into

## **Suggestions to the UW President Search Advisory Committee**

To: Dr. Kenyon Chan, Kathleen O'Neill and the search committee

From: The Faculty Council on Academic Standards (FCAS)

Subject: input for presidential search committee

Date: July 9, 2015

FCAS is responsible for setting and maintaining clear scholastic policy and academic standards for undergraduate students, including admission to and graduation from the University of Washington. Two major problems confront FCAS and the University: proliferation of competitive majors and inter-unit competition for student credit hours.

We are concerned about the large number of, and growth trend in, undergraduate majors that have competitive admissions across the University of Washington Seattle Campus. Currently, 57% of majors (179 of 312 majors) on the Seattle campus have competitive admissions, including most STEM majors. Given that undergraduates who seek admission to competitive majors often cannot apply until the end of their sophomore year, those students who are denied admission frequently have difficulty finding alternatives. Of particular note is the fact that admission to the university is based on holistic review, whereas admission to competitive majors is neither regulated nor holistic.

Second, Activity Based Budgeting (ABB) has created challenges for collegiality and collaboration between Colleges/Schools. While we understand the underlying premise of ABB—that funds need to be apportioned relative to the core missions of the University—we routinely deal with attempts by Colleges/Schools to capture or control student credit hours, and this has led to unhealthy levels of competition over course and program offerings.

We believe that substantive, long-term plans need to be in place to address these issues.

**Approved by the Faculty Council on Academic Standards, May 15, 2015**

Approximately 10 years ago there was a significant increase in the application fee for potential undergraduates applying to the University of Washington. This was in recognition of the switch to full holistic review of all applicants and the increased labor that would be necessary to complete the reviews.

Unfortunately, the budget for the Office of Admissions has not kept pace with the increasing number of undergraduate applicants. This has resulted in streamlining of the holistic review process, meaning that all applicants no longer receive two, independent reviews as well as the need for the readers to spend less time on each application.

While it is hoped that this streamlining does not compromise the heretofore excellent results of the holistic review process, the Faculty Council on Academic Standards (the faculty body with authority for oversight of the admissions process) requests that the budget for the Office of Admissions be restored to previous levels of support in proportion to the number of applicants reviewed.

## ***Council of Presidents***

*Representing Washington's Public Baccalaureate Institutions*

### **Agreement among the Public Baccalaureate Institutions Regarding the Carnegie Foundation-funded Statistics Pathway (STATWAY) Pilot Project: *Extension of the Fall 2012 – Spring 2015 Pilot***

In order to engage in a more comprehensive review of the STATWAY pathway in relation to baccalaureate mathematics requirements, the public baccalaureate institutions elect to take the option of extending the pilot agreement originally signed in July 2011 (see attached document). The agreement will be extended with the following amendments:

1. The extended pilot will recognize STATWAY course work from North Seattle College, Seattle Central College, South Seattle College and Tacoma Community College.
2. The public baccalaureate institutions agree to make a final determination regarding the STATWAY pathway *no later* than July 1, 2018.
3. The final determination may include a) termination of the STATWAY agreement, b) adopting the stated agreement as policy, or c) adopting an amended agreement that may include provisos.

(Six BI signatures similar to original agreement)

problems associated with varying levels of mathematical instruction. Janssen explained there is question as to whether there should be other ways to achieve mathematical equivalencies.

Janssen noted a program was developed by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, called Statway. He explained the program basically consists of a year of mathematical instruction and is mostly statistics-related. He explained several community colleges in the region requested that the program act as an equivalency for the minimum math requirements at the UW for their transfer students. SCAG and FCAS agreed that a three-year trial of the program sounded reasonable and that plan was implemented in the summer of 2011. Janssen noted that since this time only 14 students have utilized the program as an equivalency, and thus there is a very small amount of data to be analyzed in making the decision to implement the program as a viable equivalency permanently. Janssen noted SCAG has agreed to extend the contract for another three years maximum and to come to a decision by the end of that period concerning its permanent use at the university (Exhibit 3). He noted the extension contract expands the participatory community colleges to include North Seattle College, Seattle Central College, Tacoma Community College, and South Seattle College.

DeCosmo noted the primary concern of community colleges in this context is to get their students into four year universities. Ballinger explained this is true and that math is the primary impediment for some community college students going into four year universities. He noted this may be seen as a tool to get some students over the “math hump.” Ballinger explained that the difficulty is that these students are going to be directed to a portion of the academic offerings of the UW, but will be disallowed from many of those offerings based on their record in mathematics. Ballinger questioned if we wanted any portion of the UW population to be distinctly different in their ability in math. He noted this is a tough issue, as these students do not have a large amount of public university options in the region.

Kramer and other members clarified that a council vote on this document does not indicate an endorsement of the Statway program, but only an approval of the wording for the extension document of the equivalency to last a maximum of three more years in order to gain more experience with the program.

The subcommittee asked that FCAS accept the wording for the document on extending the pilot program.

Kramer asked for additional comments. Ballinger noted he would give university Provost Jerry Baldasty, a heads up if the council approves the wording in today’s meeting, as he will also have to sign it. It was noted the Council of Presidents will forward this document for auxiliary signatures appropriately.

The document was approved unanimously as written.

## **6) Chair’s report**

Kramer reported that she has met with IT individuals responsible for replacing the course creation and course change forms with the online “curriculum management form,” as discussed by the council in the last meeting. These changes are associated with the newly adopted FCAS definition of a Distance Learning course (DL). She noted it was decided that the hard copy forms should be changed first. Jennifer Payne (University Curriculum Procedures Analyst) has already begun revising the forms, Kramer explained. She noted the forms would be forwarded to FCAS for approval before the final meeting of the year (June 12<sup>th</sup>). One of the additions made to the forms includes adding a box to “un-DL” a course.

Kramer noted when the hard copy forms are completed, IT can utilize them to draft the online equivalents.

Kramer explained that the current code says that 45 of a student's last 60 credits must be earned in residence, and the College of Arts & Sciences has seen an increase in students with difficulty meeting the residency requirement. She explained there are a large number of students in this scenario. Kramer noted she and Kevin Mihata (Associate Dean for Educational Programs) had discussed the requirement as it applies to senior students who only have general education requirements left to graduate. Kramer noted Mihata was talking about granting petitions for senior students to take UWS (DL) courses from UWS professors.

Kramer asked if any member of the council had any objections. No objections were stated.

Kramer noted the chair of the Faculty Council on Multicultural Affairs (FCMA) Rachel Chapman and herself have been discussing the non-holistic nature of admission to competitive majors, and whether this is something that faculty councils should address in the next academic year. She explained she wanted to glean the council's perspective on this issue, as it is possible that both FCAS and FCMA might jointly draft a Class C resolution designed to draw attention to the topic within the Faculty Senate and in the university at-large.

Janssen asked council members if admission into their majors was done by faculty members or a staff person. It was found that this varies wildly between departments. Janssen noted standardizing the process for admission to be handled by a faculty committee should be the first step. After discussion, it was noted this may be a potential risk management issue, as well.

After discussion, the council agreed that the issue should be taken up by Kramer in the summer, for council deliberation to occur in the fall of next year.

## **7) Good of the order**

Pengra noted the Honors Subcommittee has met and chosen the medalist for the year. He noted the number of transfer medalist candidates has dropped over the years, which is of concern. He also noted this year had an odd majority of students from the Early Childhood and Family Studies major (ECFS). He explained that all candidates but two were ECFS majors this year. It was noted that students do not apply for the award and that the list of candidates is computer-generated. Pengra noted the large number of ECFS candidates was striking.

Ballinger noted FCAS had a discussion earlier in the year on the number of credits required for getting a degree in a particular academic area and how this connects to four-year graduation rates, as well as the associated differentials. Ballinger noted that after looking at data compiled by Tina Miller (Associate Registrar), he has confirmed that the UW has schools and colleges with low four-year graduation rates, some below 50%. He noted this is a topic worthy of conversation.

Kramer explained she would like to look at the data here in the council to see if any trends can be spotted. Ballinger noted that there is no explicit university-wide stipulation that students graduate in four years, however, nearly all the majors at UW are communicated as four-year degrees - though, they are not all found to be so, in terms of outcomes. Ballinger noted this issue is getting more expensive every year, and the conversation is not the same as 20 years ago, as the overall cost of extending

degrees longer than the four-year standard is more expensive than in past decades. He explained the UW's four-year graduation rate should be higher.

Janssen explained that a recent curriculum submission for tri-campus review included a number of errors and other potential issues. Janssen also noted the difference between the proposed B.S. and B.A. in Physics is 10 credits at UW Bothell, and this is almost the entire difference between the degrees. Janssen noted if they are different degrees, one should be distinctly different, and retain a different breadth. He noted he brings this up to the council because they have reviewed issues such as these before. Kramer noted the Faculty Council on Tri-Campus Policy (FCTCP) should be looking at this, as well. Pengra noted he will take up the issue as he is a part of the UWS Physics Department. Janssen explained the timeline for this is 15 days for comments to be submitted on the tri-campus review board (online). Janssen urged the council to look into the issue. The council thanked him for bringing this to their attention.

It was noted the Undergraduate Research Symposium is going on currently and includes over a thousand undergraduates showcasing their academic work.

## 8) Adjourn

Kramer adjourned the meeting at 2:52 p.m.

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

### **Present:**

**Faculty:** John Deehr, Don Janssen, Richard Keil, Patricia Kramer (chair), David Pengra, Dan Ratner, D. Shores, Phil Brock

**Ex-officio reps:** LeAnne Jones Wiles

**President's designee:** Philip Ballinger

**Guests:** Tina Miller, Robert Corbett, Janice DeCosmo, Mel Wensel, Emily Leggio

### **Absent:**

**Faculty:** Robert Harrison, Peter Hoff, Sarah Stroup, Thaisa Way

**Ex-officio reps:** Hailey Badger, Robin Chin Roemer

### Exhibits

Exhibit 1 – presidential search recommendation

Exhibit 2 – Admissions Budget

Exhibit 3 – STATWAY Pilot Extension