

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Academic Standards
February 6th, 2015
1:30pm – 3:00pm
Gerberding 142

Meeting Synopsis:

- 1) Call to order
 - 2) SCAP report
 - 3) Potential change to out-of-state and international admissions
 - 4) Chair's report
 - 5) Adjourn
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1) Call to order

Kramer called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.

2) SCAP report

Old Non-Routine Business

#1 - School of Public Health

Passed unanimously by the council.

#2 - Social Welfare

Lin Murdoch, a guest from the UW School of Social Work, was present to answer questions from the council concerning this request.

Janssen noted that he did not like the 4 year limit which excludes students from the program after four years if they have not graduated.

Murdoch explained that at both the Bachelor's level and at the Masters level, Social Work has a small percentage of students who do not behave professionally. She highlighted that some behaviors of these individuals include lying, extreme tardiness, and inebriation. She used an anecdotal reference to make her point - a student who had completed three years of coursework and who also was academically sound struggles with other issues and was recently terminated from her practicum. There is no way for her to continue in the program, but Murdoch noted the program has no "documentable, quantifiable reasoning to let her go." Moreover, if the student was to return to the university after some years, and apply for a course, the program has no mechanism for "catching" her in the process to disallow from her going forward. After some discussion, Janssen noted Murdoch has provided excellent justification for why a continuation policy is needed, although, he disagreed a 4 year graduation policy was necessary. Some discussion ensued on university-wide "catches" for returning students.

Kramer asked the registrar to investigate the issue of returning students and notifications to appropriate departments. She explained she believes that any major which is competitive should be notified if a student is returning, for reasons of limited enrollment. She explained perhaps that should become procedure, included in the review of reenrolling students.

There was a vote to remove the “four-year clause,” and vote on the continuation policy and the early admissions. The request was approved unanimously by the council.

Old Routine Business

#1 - Slavic Languages and Literatures

Stroup noted there was some questions about this request and this was sent back to the department. No action at this time.

#2 - Bioethics and Humanities

Approved in SCAP.

Passed unanimously by the council.

New Routine Business

#1 – Dance

Stroup explained the degree in Dance dropped a clause that they did not mean to drop in the 1503 form. After this correction, it was noted the item is sound and ready for vote from FCAS.

Passed unanimously by the council.

#2 – Integrated Sciences

After review, the council agreed they had concerns with adding a single credit hour to the course. More than three members of the council found issues with adding a single credit to the course if reasoning remained unclear. There was some discussion and speculation as to why the department would want to do this.

Kramer explained she would like to put this item on hold until they receive further information.

Held.

#3 - School of Music

Approved by SCAP.

Passed unanimously by the council.

New Non-Routine Business

#1 - Digital arts and Experimentation Data

Approved by SCAP.

Passed unanimously by the council.

Guidelines for Establishing Competitive Admissions

The council will be updated on the drafting of the “guidelines for establishing competitive admissions” at a future FCAS meeting. Stroup noted some small editorial changes would be made, and a new draft of the guidelines would be presented.

3) Potential change to out-of-state and international admissions

Kramer explained she wanted to hold a conversation with the council over current admissions processes at the UW and how a student’s future aspirations and academic discipline of choice may or may not be evaluated as part of their overall review for admission. Kramer expressed she wanted to ask the council if they would consider having something separate from past academic performance added in the admissions review process for out-of-state and international students; she explained this extra piece for review could be framed around the potential student’s future aspirations as well as their academic discipline of choice. She explained if the council wanted to take action on this question it could be done by adding language to the UW Scholastic Regulations, in Chapter 101, Section 2, Subsection G.

Janssen noted this question has different answers when talking about transfer students and freshman students. Wensel explained she would not be in favor of such an addition to admission review because she finds that freshman students often change their majors frequently and/or are unsure about their future aspirations. She noted adding admission by major (aka direct enrollment) is an administrative burden (although no one had suggested this action be taken at this point).

Kramer noted she wanted to frame the conversation to only pertain to out-of-state and international students and exclude Washington in-state students.

Way noted she believes this to be an important subject for conversation. She explained she could see how there might be backlash – where a student might include in their application that they want to study in a field that is highly saturated at the UW and may be sent away because of the fact. Nonetheless, she iterated she believed this idea of “looking forward” is extremely important especially as colleges become increasingly larger financial investments for students. Kramer added that it can be assumed that an in-country out-of-state potential student had academic options in their home state, yet chose to come to the UW for specific reasons, which may or may not actually manifest in the current enrollment model.

Brock noted he feels though as if the university setting in itself is “special” and a place for learning about one’s self, as well as one’s interests academically and professionally. He stated that even for out-of-state students, if they are direct enrolled into majors, they will miss that important part of attending university wherein they can gain fundamental information about themselves.

Janssen noted students are savvy enough in today’s world to “game the system” if academic inclination is factored into admissions decisions. For example, a student might note in their application they are interested in studying a non-competitive major simply for the application merits of doing so and then, once enrolled, try to switch to a more competitive major like Engineering.

Kramer explained to the council there are two subcommittees, and likely many others, that are dealing with these questions at the UW currently. She explained the conversation for major change needs to start in FCAS, however.

A member noted that, without data, they are not in support of factoring in academic discipline into the admission review equation. They explained there is too much misrepresented information.

Ballinger noted that the amount of out-of-state student applications and enrollees is increasing every year at the UW. Stroup noted that the reason for using potential major would be to help out-of-state

students. Though, she explained, her fear is that it would not help students. She explained her thinking revolves around what the student is going to think when they see this piece in their UW application asking what they want to/ intend to study. She fears to appear more intelligent, or more competitive, they may write that they are interested in STEM areas, regardless of the truth, not knowing that they have just hurt themselves by implying they want to study something that is highly competitive at the UW and comparatively unlikely to be able to take this student.

Ballinger noted the main question here is should the UW use admissions as a sort of controlling mechanism. He explained to the council that there are already controlling mechanisms in place, and that they may not be as transparent.

Way noted it is important for students to be able to make an argument for themselves in their applications. Wensel agreed, and noted the UW can find out a lot about the student's maturity level and interests.

Ballinger noted that in current holistic review, personal statements are much more limited than this, and often try to elicit information from students concerning diversity, and not future aspirations, or academic inclinations.

Stroup reiterated that she believes college is important for students to find out what they want to do with their lives and should have that opportunity for discovery.

DeCosmo noted she believes students do not always know what the best path may be for them and that the UW helping in finding that path should be encouraged. She noted that through having interactions with many international students over a period of years, she has found that many do not understand the US educational system at all.

Keil noted that the introduction of a new UW President correlates strongly with these sorts of decisions. Ballinger added that it needs to be decided what the UW wants to communicate to students, and families of students, who are not selected for admission to the college or department of their choice.

Kramer explained the conversation is ongoing, and FCAS will be updated as ideas move forward.

4) Chair's report

Kramer noted there are a great deal more things happening throughout FCAS and because of time constraints, many will be addressed at the next FCAS meeting.

5) Adjourn

Kramer adjourned the meeting at 3:00pm.

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

Present: **Faculty:** Phil Brock, Robert Harrison, Peter Hoff, Don Janssen, Richard Keil, Patricia Kramer (chair), David Pengra, Dan Ratner, D. Shores, Sarah Stroup (SCAP chair), Thaisa Way
Ex-Officio Representatives: Robin Chin Roemer, LeAnne Jones Wiles
Presidential Designee: Phillip Ballinger

Guests: Mel Wensel, Janice DeCosmo, Virjean Edwards, Robert Corbett, Emily Leggio

Absent:

Faculty: John Deehr

Ex-Officio Representatives: Hailey Badger

Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs (SCAP) Summary

1:30-3:00 pm

January 30, 2015

Gerberding 026

Old Non-Routine Business:

- 1. School of Public Health - ([SPH-20141203](#))** Revised admission and program requirements for both the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Science degrees in Public Health.

Background: The school wants to establish an early admissions process for students (they fully understand that if the early admitted students struggle after admissions they are still theirs – they will not be making changes to continuation policy). They are also revising their electives list to require that 10 of the 20 credits come from the School of Public Health.

Action Taken: 01/16/2015 – Hold. SCAP would like more information on what concern SPH believes that they are fixing by restricting the electives and how that aligns with being an interdisciplinary major. Also if they have discussed the potential impacts of this change on double majors/degrees with units on the approved list outside of SPH. Note that the majority of the SPH electives are 3 credits which would result in students needing to take at least 4 classes to satisfy the within School elective restriction.

Update: 1/27/2015 – Public Health responded to the questions from SCAP.

Action Taken: 01/30/2015- Approve and forward to FCAS pending SPH agreeing to proceed with changes to admission requirements only. Program requirements changes not approved.

Update: 2/2/2015 – Public Health has agreed to drop the request to change the program requirements for now.

- 2. Social Welfare - ([SOCWF-20141117](#))** Revised admissions and program requirements and a new continuation policy for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Welfare.

Background: The School wants to create an early admissions process so qualified students in their third or fourth quarters can find out if they will be admitted to the program before they take all of the regular admission prerequisite courses. This will also give them access to the school resources earlier in their studies. They also need to get their long-standing grade requirements and continuation policy, as required by the Council for Social Work Education, into the catalog and DARS.

Action Taken: 12/12/2014 – Hold for corrections to continuation policy.

Update: 1/14/2015 – Please view proposed revisions [here](#). [Revisions to SOCWF-20141117](#)

Action Taken: 01/16/2015 – Approve revisions and forward to FCAS.

Update: 1/27/2015 – Social Work has submitted a response to the FCAS question on the “tight” timeline for students. Willing to come to FCAS meeting on 2/6/15 to answer any additional questions that may arise.

Action Taken: 01/30/2015- Approve and forward to FCAS.

Old Routine Business:

- 1. Slavic Languages and Literatures - ([SLAVIC-20141029](#))** Revised program requirements for the option in Eastern European Languages, Literature, and Culture within the Bachelor of Arts degree in Slavic Languages and Literatures.

Background: The department would like to add new courses to their specified list of electives.

Action Taken: 12/12/2014 – Hold for continuation policy to continue grandfathered 2.0 in each course and 2.50 cum GPA.

Update: 1/27/2015 – Continuation Policy submitted.

Action Taken: 01/30/2015- Hold for justification of requirement for students to be full-time students.

NEXT MEETING: February 13, 2015

2. Bioethics and Humanities - ([BH-20141202](#)) Revised program requirements for the minor in Bioethics and Humanities.

Background: The department has submitted a course change application (to be reviewed by the UW Curriculum Committee on 1/20/2015) to change B H 411 to [B H 311](#) which also requires updating the minor requirements.

Action Taken: 01/16/2015 – Pending approval of B H 311 by the University Committee (Also in a pending status by the Curriculum Committee at their 1/20/2015 meeting).

Update: 1/27/2015 – Philosophy has approved the changes to B H 311. Awaiting final approval from Curriculum Committee.

Action Taken: 01/30/2015- Approve and forward to FCAS.

New Routine Business:

1. Dance - ([DANCE-20150126](#)) Revised program requirements for all options within the Bachelor of Arts degree in Dance.

Background: The department omitted language on their recently approved 1503 to specify a breadth requirement in the technique requirement of the major.

Action Taken: 01/30/2015- Approve and forward to FCAS.

2. Integrated Sciences - ([INTSCI-20150112](#)) Revised admission and program requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Integrated Sciences.

Background: The program is revising their admission requirements to allow students to apply the major sooner as well as increasing the credits of the core by 1 (a course change application for [INTSCI 401](#) is scheduled to be reviewed by the UW Curriculum Committee on Feb. 17th).

Action Taken: 01/30/2015- Approve and forward to FCAS.

3. School of Music - ([MUSIC-20150113](#)) Revised admission and program requirements for all majors within the School of Music

Background: The School of Music is eliminating their music core language in the catalog as many of the existing majors and majors under construction want to have flexibility with a set of core courses. They are also adding language, by request of the Curriculum Office, to catalog to make it explicit that all of their majors are competitive.

Action Taken: 01/30/2015- Approve and forward to FCAS.

New Non-Routine Business:

1. Digital Arts and Experimental Media - ([DXARTS-20150122](#)) Suspend admissions for the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Digital Arts and Experimental Media.

Background: The department has submitted the requested 1503 to suspend admission to the major while the RCEP to eliminate the major is processed.

Action Taken: 01/30/2015- Approve and forward to FCAS.

NEXT MEETING: February 13, 2015

Other Business:

1. Status update for drafting [guidelines](#) for establishing competitive admissions (updated by Sarah).
2. Discussion of overlapping course credit conflicts and current administrative systems as well as redundant course offerings across campus (Patricia).

NEXT MEETING: February 13, 2015