

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Academic Standards
December 5, 2014
1:30pm – 3pm
Gerberding 142

Meeting synopsis:

1. Call to order
 2. Review of the minutes from November 21, 2014
 3. CoENGR EDGE programs and DL approval
 4. Course ownership
 5. Good of the order
 6. Adjourn
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1) Call to order

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

2) Review of minutes from November 7, 2014

The minutes from November 7, 2014 were approved as amended.

3) CoENGR EDGE programs and DL approval

Kramer reported on a recent change to the professional master's degree in engineering and aerospace sciences. Typically, FCAS would not address this issue but this case presents an interesting question because the department did not fill out the DL portion on the course change form. The reason why the department did not fill out the DL designation is because when the courses were initially created there was no DL designation. This issue came up during the UW Curriculum Committee (UWCC) and Kramer is interested in the council's opinion regarding whether or not the program should follow the same rules as everyone else. There is no issue with specific changes to content.

Kramer explained that this case is significant because it will set precedent for future departments. Kramer noted this department has a long history with DL offerings at UW and this is a matter of enforcing a department to fill out the form in the future. Discussion ensued with the consensus being that DL portion of the forms should be completed. Kramer will follow up with UWCC and express the council's position that the course change form should reflect the DL designation.

4) Course ownership

The council discussed the notion of course ownership and who decides the content and names of courses. A comment was raised that this is a particular worrisome issue, especially in the context of activity-based budgeting (ABB). ABB presents complex issues because it may encourage departments to use ABB to their advantage by creating their own courses for certain programs which were previously only offered by outside departments. After speaking with stakeholders across the university it appears that FCAS is the body which should be addressing this issue.

Kramer reported another issue is chemistry changing its core series of courses: CHEM 142, 152, and 162. In the past, there was pushback to these types of changes because they can have implications the rest of the university. Kramer clarified that the changes are substantive and the plan is to implement the changes and the organization of the courses starting Fall Quarter 2015. Kramer also added that this issue was caught by the Registrar's Office. At this time no affected departments have been notified except for Biology which appears to be receptive to the changes.

Discussion ensued about the reasoning of the changes and the difficulties in rearranging content of courses within a program. A comment was raised that chemistry most likely has a process in place and the council should be able to hear the rationale for the changes. A question was raised asking if there are requirements around communicating changes to courses. Communication is the responsibility of the department, and if they do not properly conduct the proper communication then the UWCC can enforce the requirement. Discussion ensued about the impact on community colleges, shared course numberings and the impact on students within the program.

A comment was raised stressing this issue is for the college curriculum committee to address, not the council, because it has to do with course content and not academic standards. Discussion ensued. A comment was raised noting that it is important to see what the changes are because it impacts other departments across campus. If the changes in chemistry can impact 50-100 other courses there has to be some transparency within the chemistry department. A suggestion was raised that FCAS can develop guidelines that explain the process departments must follow when creating future changes, such as early notification and agreement with other departments. Kramer noted that work on this had begun last academic year and that she will forward the information to the council before the next meeting.

Discussion ensued about how to notify community colleges of the changes. Typically, UW will notify community colleges of the changes and allow them to adjust their courses accordingly. However, these changes will ultimately require community colleges to reevaluate their courses in conjunction with equivalencies at UW, such as course sequencing.

A suggestion was raised to ask a group of chemistry faculty to review the changes, recommend that UWCC not approve the courses at this time, and/or phase in the implementation period at a later time. A question was raised asking if the actual course description is being changed. Kramer explained that the description and syllabus of the courses will all change, adding that these will not be the same courses than what are currently being offered.

Kramer will contact the Chemistry Department and A&S Curriculum Committee and discuss the outreach required before approval. Janice DeCosmo and Emily Leggio volunteered to assist Chemistry with contacting WA State Colleges.

Discussion moved to how ABB impacts schools and colleges. Within ABB the College of Arts & Sciences receives its allocated funds then redistributes them throughout the college. However, this is different in other schools and colleges which drill down to the program level when allocating ABB funds. While this is not required of ABB it is an option that schools and colleges can use.

5) Good of the order

Kramer reported that she attended a recent meeting of the Faculty Council on Student Affairs which has been discussing student debt and she expects a Class C resolution to be forthcoming.

Kramer reported on a recent council chair luncheon where members discussed changes to gateway courses over the last 5-6 years, the impact of ABB, moving students through to graduation, and course availability. Kramer is curious if the Registrar's Office has information on the number of sections available to students and the trends over this time period. Members identified gateway courses in chemistry, biology, calculus, physics, math, English, psychology, economics, statistics and communications that can be examined.

Discussion moved back to ABB and course ownership. Kramer will create an ad hoc committee on courses chaired by Pengra to address DL designations and future issues that may arise.

A question was raised about the council's role regarding graduate/undergraduate mixed courses where graduate students are simply required to submit extra paperwork. The question was raised asking whether FCAS plays a role in reviewing course curriculum. Discussion ensued. Reviewing curriculum is the responsibility of the department to determine whether the content falls within their standards.

Janssen provided a report of the Subcommittee on Admissions and Graduation. The subcommittee discussed an unusual case in which an international student was enrolled at UW prior the university receiving their SAT and TOEFL scores. The student enrolled in Autumn Quarter courses. When the scores were received, it became clear the student was not admissible. The student will not be allowed to complete Autumn Quarter.

6) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Kramer at 2:20pm.

Minutes by Grayson Court, council support analyst, gcourt@uw.edu

Present: **Faculty:** Patricia Kramer (chair), Phil Brock, John Deehr, Don Janssen, Richard Keil, David Pengra, Dan Ratner, Sarah Stroup, D. Shores, Thaisa Way, Robert Harrison
President's designee: Phil Ballinger
Ex officio representatives: LeAnne Jones Wiles, Hailey Badger
Guests: Robert Corbett, Emily Leggio, Janice DeCosmo

Absent: **Faculty:** Peter Hoff (sabbatical)
Ex officio representatives: Robin Chin Roemer