

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Academic Standards
October 24, 2014
1:30pm – 3pm
Gerberding 142

Meeting synopsis:

1. Call to order
 2. Review of the minutes from October 10, 2014
 3. SCAP report – first discussion
 4. Language revision to major guidelines
 5. SCAP report – second discussion
 6. Chair's report
 7. Adjourn
-

1) Call to order

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

2) Review of minutes from October 10, 2014

The minutes from October 10, 2014 were approved as amended.

3) SCAP report – first discussion

Consent agenda – old routine business

#1 – Law, Societies and Justice.

The proposal received unanimous approval.

Old Non-routine Business

#1 – Comparative Literature

Stroup reported that comparative literature was able to justify its requirement for 35 out of 50 credits counted for the major be taken through the UW. Discussion ensued. The program is a small major and they were able to provide a reasonable justification for students to take courses outside the university. Discussion ensued regarding possible petitions and where they would be submitted. The proposal received unanimous approval.

4) Language revision to major guidelines

Members discussed possible revisions to FCAS' guidelines for majors with attention to requirements for coursework to be taken through the UW.

Section #1

Language will be changed to “*should* consist of between 50 and 90 credits”. Discussion ensued about using language stating “at least 50 credits” as an alternative. Members debated whether to have a specific range of credits and whether the guidelines need to be interpreted as official policy. A comment was raised that programs often require extensive admissions requirements and prerequisites which causes confusion when reviewing proposals. Discussion ensued about whether the 90 credits ought to be a rule or a guideline, the rationale for an upper limit, and the role FCAS has in reviewing the number of credits that majors require. A suggestion was raised to ask for a report to determine how many majors require more than 90 credits. Kramer asked if there were any objections to the 50 – 90 credits range as written in the current guidelines. No objections were raised.

Section #2

Section #2 is being addressed due to problems with students taking majors with multiple concentrations. In the past FCAS has worked with minimum internal guidelines and there should now be a clarification in the guidelines to help guide programs when developing new majors.

Section #4

Section #4 addresses core courses required for majors. Concern was raised about the term “groups” as the term is too broad. A suggestion was raised to change the term from “groups” to “suggested lists”. A comment was raised to include a statement that majors require a core domain of knowledge. A question was raised asking how large a group can be. For example, political science has a specific number of courses from each group. A comment was raised that the guidelines are intended more for interdisciplinary programs. A question was raised asking how many majors are not meeting these guidelines. Discussion ensued. At this time the council is not aware of the number, or percentage, of majors that do not meet the guidelines. Discussion ensued about grouping examples, personal experiences, and changes that can clarify the guidelines.

Members agreed on the following language: "These courses may come from thematic groupings (e.g. discipline-specific statistics, labs, approaches, theory, practices, etc.), and courses in any given grouping should be comparable in learning goals."

Section #5

Discussion ensued regarding where this section originated. The language was originally used regarding minors which migrated to FCAS’ guidelines on majors.

Section #7

The term “must” was included in order to strengthen the section.

Section #8

Discussion ensued regarding sentence structure. Concern was raised that the alarm bells should go off when the changes emphasize the time spent at UW, rather than the percentage of credits allowed to be taken at the university. A comment was raised that the alarm is already set when considering credits to

be taken through the UW. Discussion ensued regarding preferences in how the standard should be set, including number of quarters taken at UW, a 50% threshold, a 30 credits threshold, and time on campus. A comment was raised that the guidelines are not meant to get in the way of departments creating new majors but to provide guidance for departments. A comment was raised stressing the intent is not for FCAS to shut down changes to programs but to ensure there is justification for these proposals. Discussion ensued about the impact on certain departments. A suggestion was raised to set the standard at "30 credits or 50% of the major, or whatever is greater".

Section #9

Section #9 was introduced to remind departments about laws surrounding disability requirements. A suggestion was raised to add language addressing international students and issues connected with their visa requirements. A comment was raised explaining this section refers to ADA regulations, not international students.

Section #10 (new)

A suggestion was raised to create another section dealing with international students who are limited to their studies based on visa restrictions, such as service learning requirements, travel, and internships. Members agreed on the following language: "Programs shall not present barriers to admissions or graduation in view of student visa status requirements."

Section #7

Concern was raised that the guidelines refer to progress towards degree requirements for juniors but do not apply if the students are admitted as freshmen. From reading the language it appears that freshmen are being excluded from the requirement. A suggestion was raised to change the language to "majors and degrees are competitive". Discussion ensued about progress towards degree requirements. The original intent of the language was that continuation policies cannot include clauses that allow departments to get rid of students making progress to degrees but who happen to be lower than the departments' expected standards, such as GPA, time and/or credits. Discussion ensued about personal experiences.

Discussion ensued about possible language to clarify this discrepancy. Possible language may include: "Majors and degrees that are competitive must include a continuation policy that is no more restrictive.... This policy must apply to all majors regardless of when they entered the program." Stroup will review the language and bring it back to the council. A suggestion was raised to review the cohort requirements for chemical engineering.

5) SCAP report – second discussion

Old Non-routine Business

#2 – Economics

The proposal adds a residency requirement: 20 credits at 400-level courses. Concern was raised that the economics department is requiring only UW ECON 300 and 301 for the major but allows other departments to accept equivalent courses that are not taken at the university. Members debated

whether or not this policy is appropriate and if there should be a consistent standard across the university. A comment was raised that the requirement ensures quality control to guarantee that students in the major are taking 300 and 301 courses that meet the standards of the department. Concern was raised that the proposal does not address community college transfer students who may have taken equivalent courses elsewhere. The proposal was sent back to SCAP to discuss equivalency issues with ECON.

#3 – Economics

The proposal was sent back to the department to address the same issues as #2.

#4 – Near Eastern Language and Civilization

The proposal received unanimous approval.

#5 – Near Eastern Language and Civilization

The proposal received unanimous approval.

#5 – Near Eastern Language and Civilization

The proposal received unanimous approval.

#6 – Early Childhood and Family Studies

The proposal is on hold in order for SCAP to determine if the 45 credit residency requirement for online majors will also apply to on-site majors.

6) Chair's report

Kramer reported that DXARTS did not submit a 1503 last week. It was noted that the university curriculum coordinator will not move courses to the curriculum committee until the department addresses this issue. Kramer expects a 1503 to be submitted soon.

Kramer reported that she received a report on the number of new majors created in the last several years as requested by the council. Approximately seven new majors have been created since 2006 which include biosciences and resource engineering, ECFS, GWSS, ISS and a degree in public health.

Kramer reported that the university curriculum coordinator is asking which groups to include when sending out notifications for tri-campus reviews. This issue will be discussed at the next council meeting.

Kramer had a conversation with Jeff Wilkes, chair of the Faculty Council on Teaching and Learning, about shared interests between the councils. FCTL is working on the use of the anti-plagiarism software Turnitin and will report on their findings later this year. Kramer reported on a possible joint subcommittee on DL courses and asked members if they would like to volunteer. Kramer noted that any changes to the DL designation would result in Class B legislation. A question was raised regarding the connection to the previously-approved legislation regarding program-specific students. This is a separate issue since it is impacting programs in the social sciences which are converting their courses to DL and

may be putting themselves at risk concerning residency requirements, even if students are taking the classes in the classroom.

Kramer explained that questions have arisen about the signatures at the bottom of 1503 forms and what the signatures actually signify. For example, when a chair or program director signs off on a 1503 does that indicate the faculty and department approves the proposal as well? The graduate school is making this process explicit in their procedures which is why Kramer is proposing the following language: "Unit and College/School Approval – Programs propose changes to or creation of options, minors or majors via the 1503 form. The program proposers are responsible for assuring formal approval at the appropriate levels (department or unit, Dean's Office) before submitting the final document to the Faculty Council on Academic Standard for review and approval." Faculty Legislative Representative JoAnne Taricani, who was in attendance to observe the type of issues the council typically discusses, and offered that this is similar language the graduate school is requiring to formally approve new programs. A comment was raised noting that the graduate school is moving to DARS which is probably why this change is being made. Kramer noted that formal language should be included now since program approval forms will be revised in the near future.

Kramer reported that the Subcommittee on Admissions and Graduation will conduct a review of the university's holistic admissions process. The subcommittee will be working closely with the university Enrollment Management Advisory Committee and will forward any complicated issues to FCAS for discussion and feedback. Kramer explained this work is critical as it directly relates to the university's overall admissions policies. Kramer clarified the discussions will relate to the admissions of high school students, not transfer students.

7) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Kramer at 3pm.

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, Sarah Stroup, Thaisa Way

President's designee: Phil Ballinger

Ex officio representatives: LeAnne Jones Wiles, Hailey Badger

Guests: JoAnne Taricani (faculty legislative representative), Robert Corbett, Virjean Edwards, Emily Leggio, Janice DeCosmo, Mel Wensel

Absent: **Faculty:** Peter Hoff (sabbatical), Robert Harrison, Dan Ratner, D. Shores

Ex officio representatives: Robin Chin Roemer

Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs (SCAP) Agenda

1:30-3:00 pm

October 17, 2014

Gerberding 036

Old Routine Business:

1. **Law Societies, and Justice** - ([LSJ-20140522R](#)) Revised admission requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Law, Societies, and Justice (Revised)

Background: The department has agreed to modify the 1503 to only raise cum GPA for admission to 2.50.

Action Taken: 10/03/14 – Denied. SCAP has no problems if LSJ wants to come back with another 1503 for the admissions requirements but the program requirements will not be approved as submitted.

Action Taken: 10/17/14 – Approve and forward to FCAS.

Old Non-Routine Business:

1. **Comparative Literature** - ([CLIT-20140509](#)) Revised program requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Comparative Literature.

Background: The department wants to add a residency requirement to the major.

Action Taken: 10/03/2014 – Hold for residency policy.

Action Taken: 10/03/2014 – Pending justification of over 50% of major requirements completed in residence and FCAS approval of in residence major requirement.

2. **Economics** - ([ECON-20140529A](#)) Revised program requirements for the Bachelor of Science degree in Economics.

Background: The department wants to add a residency requirement to the major.

Action Taken: 10/03/2014 – Hold for residency policy.

Action Taken: 10/03/2014 - Pending FCAS approval of in residence major requirement

3. **Economics** - ([ECON-20140529B](#)) Revised program requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics.

Background: The department wants to add a residency requirement to the major.

Action Taken: 10/03/2014 – Hold for residency policy.

Action Taken: 10/03/2014 - Pending FCAS approval of in residence major requirement

4. **Near Eastern Languages and Civilization** - ([NEARE-20140505A](#)) Revised program requirements for the option in Biblical and Ancient within the Bachelor of Arts degree in Near Eastern Languages and Civilization.

Background: Making changes are part of a complete curricular overhaul.

Action Taken: 10/03/14 – Hold for residency policy. Jennifer to make minor edits to catalog copy for clarity.

Action Taken: 10/03/2014 - Pending FCAS approval of in residence major requirement; minor catalog copy edits. Course applications approved 10/21/2014.

NEXT MEETING: October 31, 2014

5. **Near Eastern Languages and Civilization - ([NEARE-20140505B](#))** Change name of the option from Cultures and Civilizations to Comparative Civilizations within the Bachelor of Arts degree in Near Eastern Languages and Civilization and revised program requirements for the option in Comparative Civilizations within the Bachelor of Arts degree in Near Eastern Languages and Civilization.

Background: Making changes are part of a complete curricular overhaul.

Action Taken: 10/03/14 – – Hold for residency policy. Jennifer to make minor edits to catalog copy for clarity.

Action Taken: 10/03/2014 – Pending FCAS approval of in residence major requirement; minor catalog copy edits; Course applications approved 10/21/2014.

5. **Near Eastern Languages and Civilization - ([NEARE-20140505D](#))** Change name of the option from Languages and Civilizations to Languages and Cultures within the Bachelor of Arts degree in Near Eastern Languages and Civilization and revised program requirements for the option in Languages and Cultures within the Bachelor of Arts degree in Near Eastern Languages and Civilization.

Background: Making changes are part of a complete curricular overhaul.

Action Taken: 10/03/14 – Hold for residency policy. Jennifer to make minor edits to catalog copy for clarity.

Action Taken: 10/03/2014 – Pending FCAS approval of in residence major requirement; minor catalog copy edits; Course applications approved 10/21/2014.

6. **Early Childhood and Family Studies - ([ECFS-20131008](#))** Revised admission and program requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Early Childhood and Family Studies; new option in Teaching and Learning within the Bachelor of Arts degree in Early Childhood and Family Studies. .

Background: The ECFS major has experienced significant growth in the past 5 years including the addition of the online major. This increase in enrollment has led them to propose revising the major to allow students to either have a greater diversity of electives (geared towards double majors) or select deeper, content related preparation for students interested in teaching and learning. They are proposing to get eliminate the Biology Science/Development and the Mathematics/Statistics general education requirement (which was also an admission requirement for the online major); they are also revising the ECFS core (was 64 credits, now 50 credits; Add ECFS 200; Remove ECFS 301, 304, 305, 400, 454, and 455 – all of which + ECFS 312, 411, and one additional elective comprise the Teaching and Learning option). Students will pick either the 35-37 credit option or take a minimum of 30 credits of approved electives.

Action Taken: 06/06/2014 – Hold. Ask department why they are dropping the Biology/Developmental and the Mathematics/Statistics requirements. Also ask that the list of elective be revised to include a DL identifier for courses approved to be offered online.

Update: See response at end of scan.

Action Taken: 10/03/14 – Hold. SCAP would like to know if 45 credit residency requirement for on-line majors also should apply to on-site majors. Also they would like confirmation from ENGL, PSYCH, SOC, GH, and NUTR that ECFS program specific students are okay in their DL courses.

Update: 10/17/2014 - No response from College yet – holding for next SCAP meeting

NEXT MEETING: October 31, 2014

Other Business:

1. Sarah and Robert to work on language for establishing policy on “within major” residency requirements and preliminary discussion on what constitutes a major.
 - a. [FCAS Majors Policies w/ in major Residency](#) as of Oct 2014
 - b. [UWS Programs with major residency requirements](#)
 - c. [UWS Programs with major residency requirements - grouped by further rules on credit](#)

2. Study Abroad courses: Ex. [HSERV 488](#). No issues with course – make minor edits to the course description.

3. Status of [DXARTS](#) major : Patricia requested and is waiting for an update from DXARTS.

NEXT MEETING: October 31, 2014