

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Academic Standards
September 26, 2014
1:30pm – 3pm
Gerberding 142

Meeting synopsis:

1. Call to order
 2. Introductions
 3. Subcommittees
 4. Review of records retention policies
 5. Review of the minutes from May 30, 2014
 6. Chair's report
 7. Good of the order
 8. Adjourn
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1) Call to order

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

2) Introductions

Members introduced themselves to the council. Kramer explained that ex officio members of the council have the same voting rights as faculty members. Kramer clarified that while the president's designee does not vote, the position provides valuable insight to council discussions.

3) Subcommittees

Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs (SCAP)

SCAP addresses critical issues related to changes in academic programs. Subcommittee members include:

- Sarah Stroup (chair)
- Thaisa Way
- John Deehr
- D. Shores
- Richard Keil
- Mel Wensel

Stroup mentioned she will be not be available during spring quarter to chair the subcommittee.

Subcommittee on Admissions and Graduation (SCAG)

Kramer explained that SCAG may experience additional work this year due to possible changes in admissions and graduation policies. Subcommittee members include:

- Don Janssen (chair)
- LeAnne Jones Wiles
- Phil Brock
- Dan Ratner
- Hailey Badger
- Janice DeCosmo

Subcommittee on Honors

This subcommittee is tasked with choosing medalists each year. Members include:

- David Pengra
- Phil Brock
- Richard Keil
- Sarah Stroup

4) Review of records retention policies

Court provided an overview of records retention policies in the Faculty Senate office. Any document that is created by an employee of the university is considered public record and the senate office is emphasizing proper records retention policies as recommended by the Office of Records Management.

5) Review of minutes from May 30, 2014

The minutes from May 30, 2014 were approved as amended. Way abstained.

6) Chair's report

Kramer explained that meetings will begin at 1:30pm and end promptly at 3pm. Kramer emphasized that discussions brought up during meetings will be reflected in the minutes.

Kramer reported on recent developments surrounding the diversity graduation requirement and the recent definition by the implementation task force. In the past there has been some misunderstanding but there have been recent discussions about how the legislation will finally be implemented. Kramer will discuss this issue with Faculty Senate Chair Kate O'Neil to determine next steps in addressing this issue with the broader university. Kramer explained this issue is important to the council because FCAS will be responsible for implementing the requirement in the future. Additionally, it is very important to understand how the College of Arts and Sciences will interpret the requirement because the majority of courses which will be categorized as "diversity" resides within the college. A question was raised asking if the incoming class of freshmen will be subject to the requirement and if courses are available now. This issue was a major point of contention and Kramer noted that in applying the rule to this incoming freshman class FCAS was promised that a sufficient number of courses would be offered. There is a possibility that students would not be able to enroll in the available courses which may lead to a high number of waivers. Discussion ensued about the impact on transfer students. A comment was raised

that while there are policies that impact lower-division requirements some diversity courses are not lower division.

Kramer reported on recent developments surrounding DXARTS. In 2012 DXARTS submitted a 1503 proposal to suspend undergraduate admission which was reviewed by SCAP. In reviewing the proposal SCAP requested additional information but did not receive a response. After hearing that DXARTS suspended admissions without the consent of the council, FCAS did speak with the director who promised to submit a proper 1503 to review. However, this did not occur and Kramer recently spoke with the director who will submit the 1503 for SCAP's review on October 17th. Kramer clarified the intent is to formally close the major within DXARTS and create a minor in its place. Kramer explained the suspension of admissions is problematic because it allows for a period of time in which no undergraduates are entering a program which could result in an RCEP process without the input of students. Discussion ensued about the RCEP process and the role of FCAS. FCAS does have the ability to grant suspension of programs under certain circumstances, such as was done for the evening degree program.

Kramer reported on recent developments surrounding enrollment management discussions. A proposal on student financial aid and options has been submitted to the president and provost and Kramer will report back when there is a response. Kramer explained that admissions will be a large issue for FCAS this year since there will likely be potential changes to holistic admissions. Kramer expects FCAS will be dealing with informational reports on this issue and any substantial actions will come from this council. It is possible that the council and SCAG will receive training in order to fully understand how university-level admissions works and operates. Kramer pointed out a particular issue of interest is direct admissions to majors, such as a recent proposal from the School of Engineering. Kramer mentioned that FCAS addressed an issue surrounding holistic review of applicants last year. In this case, the university uses socio-economic factors in the assessment of all applicants – both resident and non-resident. While this review worked well for Washington students, it created a problem when admitting out-of-state residents who pay higher tuition rates but have limited access to institutional financial aid packages. Kramer explained that since this was not the point for holistic admissions the policy was altered.

Kramer mentioned that the council will work to create a set of guidelines on what constitutes a major. While the definition of "major" may seem obvious, Kramer noted that there are important issues that need to be addressed, such as how deep and broad a major must be, upper/lower division courses that create a major, and overlap between programs. This will be a similar process to how FCAS proposed guidelines for minors and options last year. SCAP will work on a proposal soon for review by FCAS in 3-4 weeks.

FCAS will also review the issues surrounding distance learning courses this year. Currently, any course in which 50% of its content is delivered outside a traditional classroom setting is designated as "distance learning". There have been discussions across the university about eliminating the distance learning designation which will require feedback from the council. Kramer anticipates this becoming a larger issue, especially as the recently-approved online degree programs become more developed. Kramer noted FCAS will work with the Faculty Council on Teaching and Learning to address this issue.

7) Good of the order

Janssen expressed concern about the use of electronic voting to approve consent agendas and requested the following statement to be added to the minutes: “a consent agenda must allow for the opportunity to object to any agenda item before approval”.

Keil asked if FCAS can request a report on the Integrated Science degree. Discussion ensued. A comment was raised that this is an appropriate time to request a report because there are outstanding issues that need to be addressed, such as non-departmentalized, non-graduate programs hiring faculty who are not being hired directly into a department.

A comment was raised about the recent interest in quick BS/MS pairings. Kramer noted that if some component falls within FCAS’ charge the issue could be addressed in SCAP.

A question was raised about the number of new majors offered since the implementation of activity based budgeting (ABB). Discussion ensued. FCAS will request the Office of the Registrar to report on the number of majors, minors and options created since the beginning of ABB.

8) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Kramer at 3pm.

Minutes by Grayson Court, Council Support Analyst, gcourt@uw.edu

Present: **Faculty:** Kramer (chair), Brock, Deehr, Janssen, Keil, Pengra, Ratner, Shores, Stroup, Way
Ex officio representatives: Jones Wiles, Badger
Guests: Robert Corbett, Virjean Edwards, Emily Leggio, Janice DeCosmo, Mel Wensel

Absent: **Faculty:** Hoff (sabbatical), Harrison
President’s designee: Ballinger
Ex officio representatives: n/a