

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS
June 8, 2007, 1:30-3:00 p.m.
224 Mary Gates Hall

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Chair's Report
 2. Approval of the minutes.
 3. Old Business:
Continued Discussion of Draft Report of the Admissions and Graduation
Subcommittee on Special Admits
 4. Subcommittee Business:
SCAP—Jay Johnson (& new item from EE?)
 5. New Business (Under SCAP)
 6. Adjourn
-

1. Chair's Report

Chair Dillon introduced a special guest, Priscilla Allen, Campus Programs Assessment Coordinator for English Language Programs. Her office sets the proficiency standards across the campus. Dillon noted that this will be a continuing bit of business for FCAS in the fall.

2. Approval of minutes.

With one small correction, council members approved the minutes for May 25, 2007.

3. Old Business:

**Continued Discussion of Draft Report of the Admissions and Graduation
Subcommittee on Special Admits**

Dillon noted that the Draft Report had been pre-reported by council member Don Janssen (not present today). Dillon asked Subcommittee member Newell to comment. She reported that the Subcommittee's strategy was to create, as a next step, a University task force to look into the questions they had raised. She also commented on the work that the Task Force agreed to, such as course review, secondary recommendations, duties spelled out based on information from the study. Newell raised questions about why special admit students tend to do well their first year, but not in their second year at the UW. She suggested that the time and money spent on the program makes it worth looking into. Council member Corbett asked about the summer program for athletes, Summer Bridge.

Council member Johnson commented that the relatively small number of students within the study suggests that it is not a significant problem, and yet he sees the value in tracking these students' performance because of the controversial nature of special admits and athletes.

Council member Ballinger suggested that they check yearly on the data from special admit students. He remarked that if they find that students do reasonably well because of their access to support services it might be that they will extend the range of students eligible for the services. Council members discussed the "sophomore slump" phenomenon and agreed that it would be good to have the Task Force look into it.

Dillon noted that the Faculty Council on Instructional Quality and the Assessment Department will both be involved on the Task Force. Dillon called for a motion to accept the report. Johnson made the motion, followed by Council member Nobles who seconded it. With no further comment, council members approved the report's policy and guidelines.

4. SCAP—Jay Johnson (& new business from E.E.?)

Johnson began with a non-routine program change in Aerospace Leadership Studies. The proposal seeks to create a new minor in Aerospace Leadership Studies. Johnson noted that the 5 comments received fit into three categories:

- A problem with the title (Aerospace Studies)
- Suggestion of a certificate instead of a minor
- Viewed the minor as having dubious academic value

Johnson reported that the ROTC added the word "Leadership" to their program to avoid any confusion. The suggestion of a certificate was irrelevant because the University does not award certificates. Last, the comments about the minor's academic value were anti-military in nature, and while the committee considered the issue germane, noted that it was beyond the scope of its work. Without further comment, council members voted unanimously to approve the minor in Aerospace Leadership Studies. It will now be forwarded to FCTCP.

Johnson next addressed three new routine program changes in Computer Science and Engineering, Nursing, and Forest Resources. The Computer Science and Engineering proposal seeks to add a new course CSE 484 to the software option core courses and CSE 471 to the Hardware option core courses. Newell asked if the changes effect the program requirements. Johnson replied that it does.

The Nursing program seeks to change its requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing. It proposes to:

- add NURS 404 to the degree requirements
- change NURS 310 from 2 to 3 credits
- drop NURS 313 from requirements (content was integrated into NURS 310)

Forest Resources seeks to revise its program requirements for the minor in Streamside Studies. The goal is to edit out courses that are no longer offered or are restricted in order to provide flexibility and timeliness in finishing the minor requirements. Council members approved the three routine program changes with no objections.

Left over from the previous FCAS meeting were two non-routine program developments. One was the introduction of a new Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Early Childhood and Family Studies. The other change was a new minor in Education, Learning, and Society between the College of Education and the Colleges of Arts and Sciences. Corbett noted that both programs answered all comments that were directed to them. Council members voted to forward the proposals to FCTCP with a note that says that all Tri-Campus comments have been addressed to SCAP's approval. Dillon asked for the motion, which was made by Johnson, and seconded by Nobles. The council approved both proposals with no objections.

The Electrical Engineering issue was not submitted in time to be presented at today's meeting.

5. New Business

Priscilla Allen told the council that she wanted to meet with FCAS to find out more about the council and to see if it could possibly assist her in her task to address writing standards. Allen explained how during Week Ten of a typical UW spring quarter senior students find out that they have failed their English Language class. It is often the only class between them and graduation. It is not an acceptable standard, and Allen asked, maybe it shouldn't matter; should we be looking at other strengths? Allen described it as a standards issue. She often works with many but not all English as Second Language students. Council members assured her that in their fields they too have students who put off taking classes that they should have taken earlier. Council members commented on some of the challenges they face, such as hearing colleagues accept a lower standard of writing because they don't consider themselves English teachers and being given a limit as a T.A. on how many points can be deducted for poor writing.

Ballinger suggested that they should look at patterns in the students who don't pass. He noted that they could track them by their major, on entrance to the University, as well as through the writing section of the new SAT test. In reviewing data drawn from patterns Ballinger suggested that UW admissions policy could possibly change if they saw a need.

Johnson inquired how this issue fits into the council's mission. Dillon replied that it's a graduation requirement. Johnson noted that it is a quality control issue within departments. Corbett explained that the two specific components in the graduation code are writing skills, and qualitative or quantitative reasoning.

Allen noted that she wasn't certain if these students were taking the English Composition course beforehand. She also remarked that these students come from departments all over. Council member Wiegand noted that these students' grades are all over and they

often take the class for 5 quarters. Dillon remarked that this presents a conundrum in that students who take courses in the English Language Program know that it is not for credit and see that it doesn't prepare them for their other courses. Council members briefly discussed difficulties with the requirements, students self-selecting habits in choosing courses which grade by multiple-choice tests, and problems with student writing and ways to get at improving it. Allen noted that they might not be helping all the students who need help. Both Ballinger and Wiegand offered to work with Allen on the issues raised. Dillon declared this a task force issue and suggested that it could be framed differently by having something for all students, not just ESL students.

6. The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

Minutes by Melissa Kane, Faculty Senate, mmkane@u.washington.edu, or 206.543.2884

Present: Faculty: Dillon (Chair), Keil, Johnson, Newell

Ex-Officio: Nobles

Regularly Invited Guests: Ballinger, Corbett, Mildon, Wiegand

Absent: Faculty: Cunningham (excused), Janssen (excused), Fitzpatrick (excused)

Ex-Officio: Taylor, Navin (excused), Rickerson (excused) Shields

Regularly Invited Guests: Winslow (excused)