

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS
FRIDAY, October 19, 2007, 1:30-3:00 p.m.
442 Mary Gates Hall

The meeting was called to order at 1:36 p.m.

Meeting Synopsis:

1 Chair's Report

- Membership and Subcommittees

2. Approval of Minutes

3. Old Business

- Proposed requirement in Spanish and Portuguese major for experiential learning/study abroad requirement (Suzanne Petersen and others from S&P)

4. Subcommittee Reports

- SCAP (Jay Johnson) trip to UW Tacoma
- New Proposals
- Admissions and Graduation (Susanna Cunningham)

5. New Business

6. Adjourn

1. Chair's Report--Membership and Subcommittees

Chair George Dillon introduced Vicki Haag Day as a new FCAS member from the Undergraduate Academic Advising Council. He also noted that Doug McManaway is currently filling in for ASUW representative Jenny Hahn. Also, sitting in for Todd Mildon today is Bob Janssen. Dillon also introduced Cynthia Fugate, the Association of Librarians of University of Washington representative for FCAS.

With regret, Dillon noted that FCAS member Leslie Breitner will be leaving the council. He will need someone else to sign up as the liaison for the Quality and Rigor task force and asked council members to let him know.

The Chair alerted council members to the change in the charge of the Admissions and Graduation subcommittee to look into the English as a Second Language initiative. The issue has drawn the attention of the Regents, who have asked the President to form an advisory committee on the issue. Dillon and Admissions and Graduation Subcommittee Chair Susanna Cunningham will serve on the committee as representatives of FCAS.

2. Approval of minutes

Council members approved the minutes from October 5, 2007 as corrected.

3. Old Business – Proposed requirement in Spanish and Portuguese major for experiential learning/study abroad requirement

Suzanne Petersen came from the Spanish and Portuguese Studies department to address the council's questions concerning the request to add an experiential learning/study abroad component to the major.

Petersen told the council that her department did not view the major requirement as a two-tiered system. She noted that her department created the experiential learning alternative for those students who couldn't study abroad. She acknowledged that married students, students with children, and those who worked would not be able to fulfill the study abroad component. She does not view experiential learning as a lesser project because students are experiencing a Spanish-speaking community and gaining Spanish language skills that can lead to real jobs.

Petersen clarified that "study abroad" would be for a minimum of one quarter. When asked about the cost of the study abroad requirement, Petersen replied that given the typical undergraduate student cost for a quarter at the University of Washington (about \$6,130) the cost for the study abroad experience was not much more (about \$7,000). That cost includes room and board, as part of the student's in-state fees. Petersen noted that the value of the classes reflected the growing importance of the Spanish language and the department's response to the call for "public humanities."

Council member Jay Johnson explained the reasoning behind SCAP's "non-routine" label for the Spanish and Portuguese major proposal. He noted that they wanted a discussion of all aspects of the proposal, in particular the availability of financial aid for students who needed help. Suzanne responded by saying that there is a scholarship fund for foreign study and that five students a year receive \$500 towards their foreign studies. She noted that four students who went abroad this year were awarded Gates Scholarships.

Suzanne was asked about financial aid and other help being available to all students who needed it. At issue was a concern that students face a financial burden as well as a possible loss of work if they study abroad. Council guest Haag Day suggested the use of a web page that lists available financial resources for students. Petersen noted that all prospective students are sent for advising to both the International Programs & Exchanges (I.P.E.) and the financial aid office. She also pointed out that the experiential learning component is a response to the financial concerns because it allows students flexibility as they can spread out their work over the year. Council member Brad Holt emphasized the importance of the service learning piece and his view that every student who wants to sign up for it should be able to.

Council guest Miles Logsdan inquired whether students can choose their own study abroad program. Petersen explained that all study abroad programs are pre-approved for students. She noted that their department runs four such programs and that they also evaluate offers sent to them by the I.P.E.

A concern was raised about the university graduation requirement that a student must take 45 of their last 60 credits in residence. Petersen explained that the study-abroad programs sponsored by the department courses are considered "on campus." She noted that 90% of their students take study abroad courses that are in these programs. Petersen emphasized that there have been no problems with graduation as no student has ever been held back because of participation in a study abroad program.

Johnson made a motion to approve the Spanish and Portuguese major requirement. Council member John Schaufelberger seconded it and the council approved it with a note to print their concerns raised in the minutes.

4. Subcommittee Reports

- **SCAP: (Jay Johnson) Trip to Tacoma**

Yesterday several SCAP members visited the UW Tacoma campus because they had been asked for help from their Tacoma counterparts. Johnson said they had several new faculty groups, like FCAS, and that there was pressure on them to make decisions about new programs. SCAP members were shown some proposals and Johnson noted how very different they were from the ones his subcommittee reviews. Johnson added that they discussed curriculum versus programmatic issues but it wasn't likely that they would follow UW Seattle procedures. Overall, it was a good chat.

- **New Proposals**

Johnson introduced three routine program changes:

The Architecture and Construction Management program is requesting a revision in the major to accommodate a dual major. Johnson noted SCAP concern with the terms “electives” versus “selectives” and approved the proposal as routine pending some editing of terms.

The other two routine approvals were for revisions in the major in Asian Studies and the minor in Japan Studies. The addition of course SISEA 242 to the approved list of courses for students in both of these programs was straightforward.

Johnson addressed four other issues:

FCAS and SCAP member Robert Corbett announced that a word version of the 1503 form used for program changes was going up on the web soon. It was noted that both word and PDF versions would be available. Corbett asked the council to briefly look at the 1503 form to see where the problems lie with it. Action: Corbett will schedule this review sooner rather than later.

The second issue was a follow up on the Communication/Information Tech & Society (CMUITS) minor.

The third issue concerned the Aerospace Studies minor for students who took courses prior to making them non-deductible. Students didn't get credit for these courses before and are seeking credit for them now. The question is, “can you grandfather back courses taken earlier?” The answer from the Department of Audit Reporting System (DARS) is that there are exceptions made on a case-by-case basis.

The last issue was looking for an answer to the question, “Can credits expire?” The agreement amongst council members was that credits do not expire for undergraduate students. The issue is different for graduate students.

- **Admissions and Graduation**

Subcommittee Chair, Susanna Cunningham, noted that the subcommittee had no report as yet.

5. New Business

Council member Holt raised an issue from the College of Engineering. He explained the proposal to freshman, a select group of highly qualified students, that if they come to the UW they will be admitted to the engineering program of their choice. So, they would bypass the regular admissions process by qualifying as early entrants. The issue is whether or not the College of Engineering needs to resubmit every department's admissions requirement. It was noted that departments would be demonstrating their agreement with the proposal by rewriting their admissions forms. Also, can a department say no? An alternative would be to have each department Chair sign one proposal. Council members engaged in a brief but lively discussion.

Council member Corbett announced a HEC board public forum to be held at the North Seattle Community College on November 1st. He noted that it would be the first public opportunity to speak to the board. Action: Corbett will send out the notice to the FCAS council members.

6. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

Minutes by Melissa Kane, Faculty Senate, mmkane@u.washington.edu or 543-2884

Present: Faculty: Cunningham, Dillon (Chair), Fitzpatrick, Holt, Johnson, Schaufelberger

Ex-officio: Fugate, Rocha

Regularly Invited Guests: Ballinger, Corbett, Sahr, Wiegand

Invited Guests: Vicki Haag Day, Bob Janssen, Miles Logsdan, Doug McManaway

Absent: Faculty: Breitner (excused), Keil (excused), Simpson

Ex-officio: Hahn (excused), Mildon (excused)

Regularly Invited Guest: Winslow (excused)