

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

The meeting was called to order at a 1:34 p.m.

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Chair's Remarks
 2. Subcommittee Reports:
Admissions and Graduation—Susanna Cunningham
 3. Approval of minutes
 4. Dobel Report on Intercollegiate Athletics
 5. New Business
 6. Adjournment
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1. Chair's Remarks

Chair George Dillon told council members that he had spoken with Dan Luchtel about adding a representative from FCAS on academic program review committees, which are conducted every ten years on a rotating basis for all academic units. He said unfortunately they were unable to discuss the university's three campus program approval process. Dillon said he also met with Janet Primomo and Marcie Stein on the issue of cross campus registration, noting that they mostly wanted to find out what FCAS's concerns were about the policy.

Dillon also said that Pat Dobel had submitted a report on the Athletic Department in his role as its faculty liaison, noting that he would return to the report at a later part of the meeting.

Dillon noted that the faculty committee reviewing the English Language Program at the UW began its work before a similar administrative committee. It was thought that the faculty committee should combine its work with the administrative committee to reduce duplication of effort and confusion as to who is reviewing what. FCAS will take up the findings and recommendations of the Task Force which involve setting or changing academic standards for admission and graduation.

**2. Subcommittee Report:
Admissions and Graduation**

Council Member Susanna Cunningham reported on a meeting with members of the English Language Program, Vice Provost David Szatmary, Registrar Todd Mildon and Director of Admissions Philip Ballinger and others. The meeting went over background information on the issue, including the anomalies of students fulfilling all graduation requirements except for the English language requirement, which is only imposed on

non-citizens. Don Janssen at that meeting noted that FCAS was responsible for admission and graduation policies at the university, yet there is no record of the Council creating the requirement. It was also noted that the fact that the policy is based on citizenship, rather than language proficiency, is also somewhat worrying. The committee also discussed how the policy affects admission and its impact upon graduation, as well as problems for students currently enrolled who may be having difficulty with the requirement.

Mildon reported that the actual provenance of the requirement is still uncertain, but that it seemed to have started in 1981. However, the rule itself involves issues that are larger than simply admission, hence the need for a joint administrative and faculty committee. Any changes to the policy will be presented later to FCAS, along with the report from the committee.

Honors Subcommittee:

Dillon reported that John Schaufelberger of Construction Management had agreed to represent FCAS on the ad hoc Committee of Academic Rigor as well as serve on the Honors Subcommittee. Mildon indicated that the need to read applications was not pressing as of yet.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved with no revisions.

4. Dobel Report on Intercollegiate Athletics

Dillon turned back to Pat Dobell's report to the faculty senate on intercollegiate athletics at the UW. He noted that one issue was the clustering of students around certain majors, specifically Political Science and American Ethnic Studies. (This applied to all athletes, not just those specially admitted.) Students are counseled to explore various majors.

The issue confronting Intercollegiate Athletics is that NCAA's Academic Progress Requirements program would be going into its penalty phase in the next year or so. Changes to required progress for athletes have already been made, but until now there had been warning rather than enforcement. A recent article in the Chronicle discussed perceptions of fallibility in the measure that the NCAA was using to assess progress.

Council Member Jay Johnson asked about what had initiated the report from Dobel. Dillon replied that as the faculty's representative, Dobel reported twice a year to the Senate. UAA Associate Dean John Sahr said that in general the NCAA and university presidents have been revamping academic assessment of athletes.

Mildon noted that the issue of university athletics is prominent in the media--recently, his office had been fielding inquiries about former university athletes who had died young. Johnson said that it was the Council's (and university faculty's) role to bring to pressure upon the academic side of athletics, but noted that there were also many students who excel who are on athletic scholarship--and otherwise may not have been able to attend college.

5. English Language Programs

Mildon noted that the policy on English language proficiency for non-citizens is fairly high level guidance, and thus provides no specified methods for determining that competence. UAA Assistant Dean Debbie Wiegand said that probably meant the procedures had been probably worked out with Admissions, and then given to them to handle.

Johnson asked whether the committee on English Language Programs had been given a charge specifically. Cunningham said that a letter had been sent, with a 4 point charge. Mildon said that what had been surprising was that the issue of funding had been included (the courses currently are considered part of student's course load paid by their regular tuition).

The Council discussed the question of what standard tuition pays for and what it does not generally. Course fees often are applied for classes with lab requirements or technology requirements. Sahr said that other students might have a claim if ELP classes began to be included. Council Member Brad Holt said that it then became an issue of what the university wanted to pay for with state funding and what would provided on a fee basis.

Mildon noted that the HECB said they had no policy on state funding of remedial courses. It was, in essence, one of the many "myths" about how the university runs, since much of the institution's "ops manual" is not written down.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Minutes by Robert Corbett, Coordinator of New Programs, rcorbett@u.washington.edu, 616-0657

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

President's Designee: Mildon

Ex-Officio: Fugate, Haag Day, McManaway

Regularly Invited Guests: Ballinger, Corbett, Sahr, Wiegand

Absent: Faculty: Keil (excused)

Ex-Officio: Rocha (excused)

Regularly Invited Guests: Winslow