

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
FACULTY COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS  
October 5, 2007, 1:30 p.m.  
224 Mary Gates Hall

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Chair's Remarks:
    - Introduction of New Members
    - Summary of last year's Annual Report
    - Preview of issues this year
    - Subcommittees and assignments
  2. Approval of Minutes from June 8, 2007
  3. SCAP Report (Jay Johnson) (& trip to UWT)
  4. Old Business: Volunteer for ad hoc Committee on Academic Quality and Rigor
  5. New Business:
    - Change in composition of FCAS to include representative from Undergraduate Academic Advising Council
    - Vote for ex-officio members
    - Other new business?
  6. Adjourn
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**1. Chair's Report**

The Chair, George Dillon, handed out an updated FCAS roster to council members. He then described the council constituency, noting that Miles Logsdon will be substituting for Richard Keil while he is away at sea.

- Introductions

Dillon asked all council members to introduce themselves. He noted that Cynthia Fugate will be the Association of University Librarians (ALUW) council representative.

- Summary of last year's Annual Report

Next, the Chair summarized the Annual Report for 2006-2007. He provided an overview of the Subcommittee on Academic Programs (SCAP), and explained the 1503 forms that council members recently received in an email. Dillon remarked on the important perspective that ex-officio council members offer to the FCAS subcommittees.

An inquiry was made as to how one gets to the FCAS web page. Dillon was also asked whether FCAS should oversee the Graduate Programs. He replied that this committee is fully engaged in its focus on undergraduate programs. He suggested that if anyone knows of someone interested in pursuing this, they should contact the Senate Faculty Chair, Dan Luchtel.

### Vote for Ex-Officio Members (New Business)

The Chair introduced the vote for ex-officio members to the council. Council member John Sahr made the motion to vote in favor of allowing ex-officio members to vote. Council member John Schaufelberger seconded the motion. Voting council members collectively voted to extend voting rights to all ex-officio members.

- Preview of issues this year

Dillon previewed an important issue facing the council this year: special admit policies and the creation of an ad hoc committee to address academic rigor and quality. The ad hoc committee grew out of the work of the Admissions and Graduation Subcommittee, which posted its final report on the FCAS webpage. The request for the ad hoc committee will be put before the Senate Executive Committee next week. Dillon noted that the committee will focus on “easy courses” and that the problem lies not just with athletes. He stated that they want one person from FCAS on the committee.

- Subcommittees and assignments

The Chair provided an overview of the three subcommittees within FCAS:

1. SCAP
2. Admissions and Graduation
3. Honors and Awards

Sign-up sheets were passed around. It was noted that the subcommittee on Admissions and Graduation is heavily represented by faculty and staff in the sciences, not the Arts and Sciences. The Chair said he would make inquiries of someone in the English Department.

## **2. Approval of minutes from June 8, 2007**

Council member Debbie Wiegand requested that one line be struck from the June 8<sup>th</sup> minutes that might be misconstrued. With no further comment, council members approved the minutes.

## **3. SCAP Report (Jay Johnson) (& trip to UWT)**

Council member and SCAP Chair, Jay Johnson, gave new council members an overview of SCAP proceedings and the use of the 1503 form for all program changes, minor and major. He explained the SCAP classification system of “routine” and “non-routine” program changes. He also described the process by which requests for program changes move to tri-campus review, for advice and insight, and then return to FCAS.

### Five Routine Program Changes:

1. Mechanical Engineering – The change is a simple shift in the start date for admissions and program requirements for the major in ME within the Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. SCAP approved this as routine.

2. Asian Studies – The request is the addition of course SISEA 242 to the list of requirements for completion of the minor in Asian Studies. SCAP approved this as routine.
3. Spanish – The Spanish and Portuguese Studies department is asking for a change in the required courses for the minor in Spanish. FCAS approved the request as a routine mechanistic change, pending clarification on the accessibility of the listed courses.
4. Dance -- Dance is requesting a revision in the admissions requirement for the major. Currently a student may only enter during spring quarter, and the Dance department would like to create a rolling admissions process. SCAP approved this as routine, with a request for clarification in the wording of the interview process. It is not clear whether students can be eliminated from dance based upon their interview and faculty assessment in a technique class.
5. Chemical Engineering -- The request is to expand their admissions to the major in CE to include eligible freshman. SCAP approved this as routine, pending clarification of minimum application requirements and where the criteria will be inserted in the catalogue. SCAP members discussed the issue of fairness raised in an email. The issue centered up the belief that freshman students could potentially displace transfer students for admission into the CE major.

#### Two Non-routine Program Changes:

1. Spanish-- Spanish and Portuguese Studies would like to revise the program requirements for the major in Spanish. This would involve changing course requirements and adding a study abroad and/or experiential learning component. Council members discussed this proposal at length, raising several issues:
  - Does this mean there is an immersion program here?
  - Who is approving the “study abroad” component?
  - Issues of fairness:
    - This raises questions about lower income students benefiting from the economic value of a study abroad experience.
    - All students should be able to select one or all of the graduation requirements, but can they do that, especially the study abroad component?
    - Will all students be able to fulfill one or all requirements?

Dillon pointed out the importance and precedence of this issue. He noted that it will be revisited. Council member Brad Holt suggested that if the two components of graduation are essentially equivalent, then it should not be a problem and a solution might be to reword it. Council member Matt Winslow remarked that if students want the experience of Spanish 392, then a study abroad experience seems like something they would also want. Action on the SCAP recommendation was deferred pending discussion with the proposer from Spanish and Portuguese at the next FCAS meeting.

2. Marine Biology –The request is to create a new interdisciplinary minor in Marine Biology. Johnson gave an overview of the SCAP work done last year on defining and creating guidelines for “interdisciplinary” programs. Council member Robert Corbett described the program request as “well done.” SCAP approved this request as “non-routine” pending a few catalogue edits to be made. Johnson made the motion to accept the approval, seconded by council member Richard Fitzpatrick. Council members voted unanimously to approve the proposed changes.

Trip to UW Tacoma:

Johnson briefed council members on an upcoming campus visit to UWT by SCAP members who will be instructing their Tacoma counterparts on “how it’s done.”

**4. Old Business: volunteer for ad hoc Committee on Academic Quality & Rigor**

This business was handled through a line on the subcommittee sign-up sheet.

**5. New Business:**

- Change in composition of FCAS to include representative from Undergraduate Academic Advising Council

This issue concerns a proposal from the Council of Advisors requesting a representative be sent to FCAS. The motion to add an ex-officio member to the FCAS council was made by council member Sahr. Council member Johnson seconded the motion, and council members approved it unanimously.

- Priscilla Allen: Issue regarding placement testing in ESL.

In June, Priscilla Allen, Campus Programs Assessment Coordinator for English Language Programs, addressed FCAS with her concerns about graduation issues concerning non-native English speaking students. Students who struggle to pass the placement test in ESL can take up to 5 courses which each cost about \$1,000. Students do not receive graduation credit for them, but the courses affect their grade. Council members discussed the issue briefly, concluding that it concerns multiple difficult issues. A particular concern noted was the grading practices employed in the ESL courses. This council will address this issue again.

**6. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

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

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

**Ex-Officio:** Mildon, Rocha,

**Regularly Invited Guests:** Ballinger, Corbett, Logsdan, Sahr, Wiegand, Winslow

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

**Ex-officio:** Hahn