

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
FACULTY COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS  
FRIDAY MARCH 7, 2008, 1:30-3:00 p.m.  
224 Mary Gates Hall

Chair George Dillon called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

**Meeting Synopsis:**

1. Approval of minutes
2. Chair's report
  - Provost's Task Force on English Language Proficiency
  - Joint ad hoc committee with FCTCP to draft Cross Campus Enrollment policy
  - Joint ad hoc committee with FCIQ on Academic Rigor
3. Subcommittee reports:
  - SCAP
  - Admissions and Graduation
4. Old Business
5. New Business
6. Adjournment

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**1. Approval of minutes**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**2. Chair's report**

**Provost's Task Force on English Language Proficiency**

**Joint ad hoc committee with FCTCP to draft Cross Campus Enrollment policy**

**Joint ad hoc committee with FCIQ on Academic Rigor**

Chair Dillon began his report by introducing Dave Iseminger, GPSS representative, to the council. Iseminger spoke briefly about his background in academic standards.

The report on the joint ad hoc committee (with the Faculty Council on Tri-Campus Policy) to draft a cross-campus enrollment policy was moved to the first item in the Chair's report. Council member Gunnar Almgren updated the joint committee's progress. He reported that they had met once and discussed the principles behind the limit in number of cross-enrolled credit hours that undergraduate students are allowed toward their degree. Dillon reminded him that there was about one month left before the deadline to submit legislation to the Senate Executive Committee. Almgren noted that he would email FCTCP Chair Janet Primomo about the approaching deadline.

Council member John Schaufelberger reported on the progress of the joint ad hoc committee (with Faculty Council on Instructional Quality) on academic rigor. He noted that their charge involves evaluating the need for regular course review, examining the criteria for evaluating the appropriate level of academic rigor in courses, and investigating independent study courses. Schaufelberger reported that the next meeting will take place in April, and that the Office for Educational Assessment is in the process of constructing a survey that will be sent out to all departments about academic rigor and

quality. Council members discussed whether it was possible to determine the kind of academic rigor students think they are experiencing. It was felt that the use of hours spent in the classroom was an insufficient measurement tool. Schaufelberger noted that the OEA was developing a Challenge and Engagement Index for that purpose.

Chair Dillon updated the council on the Provost's task force on English Language Proficiency. He noted that the committee has met weekly at 8:30 a.m. They began with the goal of examining the Language policy of the university but soon shifted their focus to the immediate problems facing students. He noted that they are looking at the number of students admitted who are not capable of getting much from their education because of their weak English language skills. Dillon noted that they are likely to go after the language policy of the university. He described the current requirements of non-citizens: they must supply upon entrance evidence of their English proficiency based on a minimum score on an accepted test, such as TOEFL, a section of the SAT, IELTS, etc. (The Registrar's Office has a complete list at: <http://depts.washington.edu/registra/elr/>.) There is also a screening test used for those students who do not have access to these tests. Dillon said that he wants the committee to see the screening test. He added that the committee would also examine the fee issue.

A question was asked about the use of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test which costs \$175. It was noted that all students who are non-citizens must show English language proficiency. Council guest Phil Ballinger remarked that he sees the point is in applying the principle universally. Council members began an extended philosophical discussion about the kind of students who are admitted to the UW but are at risk of failing.

### **3. Subcommittee reports:**

#### **SCAP**

Council member Jay Johnson reported that SCAP had approved two new and two old items of business. The first new item was the request by Health Services to eliminate the minor in Public Health (HSERV-20080206). Their rationale is the desire to focus on the preferred major. In order to facilitate existing students completing the minor, they also proposed revisions in the minor requirements. Johnson noted that SCAP approved the changes as proposed.

The second new item was a request by the department of Social Work to revise the requirements for its bachelor degree (SOCWF-20080220). Johnson reported that the request was to convert a special topics course into a new course. The request was approved as routine.

The first item of old business was the request by Communication (COM-20071031) to revise the admissions requirements for its major. The issue has been sent to the UW Attorney General's office, and Johnson reported that there has been no response as yet.

The second item of old business was the request by Asian Languages and Literature (KOREAN-20071031) to create a new minor in Korean. It had been initially approved as

non-routine by SCAP, and has been reviewed in both FCAS and the Tri-Campus review. Johnson noted that SCAP agreed to approve the request pending the departmental approval of language that would state that students could not apply more than 10 credits of Korean 499 towards the minor. A motion was made to approve the minor and accept the changes. The motion was seconded and approved by consensus.

#### **Admissions and Graduation**

Council member Cunningham reported that the subcommittee had met the day before. She said that Immigration Services requires all international students to have a proper visa for admission purposes. Cunningham also noted that the committee discussed adding the use of the SAT score as one more option to establish English language proficiency. She added that they only discussed the issues and that actual wording would be worked out at the next week's meeting.

#### **4. Old Business**

There was no old business today

#### **5. New Business**

There was no new FCAS business introduced.

#### **6. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

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

**Present: Faculty:** Almgren, Cunningham, Dillon (Chair), Fitzpatrick, Holt, Keil, Johnson, Schaufelberger, Stroup

**President's Designee:** Todd Mildon

**Ex Officio Reps:** Haag Day, McManaway, Rocha

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

**Special guests:** Iseminger

**Absent: Faculty:** Antony (excused)

**Ex Officio Reps:** Fugate (excused)