

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS
FRIDAY, May 2, 2008, 1:30-3:00 p.m.
26 Gerberding

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

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Approval of minutes
2. Chair's report
3. Subcommittee reports:
 - SCAP
 - Honors
 - Academic Rigor (Schaufelberger)
 - HEC Board (Corbett)
 - Admission and Graduation (Cunningham)
4. Old Business
Final draft of proposed joint resolution to amend the Code (class B)
5. New Business
6. Adjournment

Chair Dillon asked to amend the agenda by moving the Admissions and Graduation report by council member Susanna Cunningham to the top of the Subcommittee reports. The amendment was approved.

1. Approval of minutes

The minutes were amended with three minor changes and approved with no further comment.

2. Chair's report

Dillon noted that the final draft of the Class B legislation on cross-campus enrollment policy jointly drafted between FCAS and FCTCP will go before the Senate Executive Committee for a vote next Monday.

3. Subcommittee reports:

- Admission and Graduation (Cunningham)

Susanna Cunningham reported that the English Language Proficiency task force has approved two small changes for international students. She explained that some international students come with SAT and ACT scores which are not currently used for assessing their English language proficiency. Advisors say that this is a hardship for a few international students. A motion was made to approve the inclusion of SAT/ACT scores in determining English language proficiency for international students. The motion

was seconded. In the discussion it was noted that international students will be made aware of the changes, and that this will give advisors leeway in its use. It does not affect graduate students. The motion carried with no opposition.

Cunningham next distributed a document titled "Admission and Graduation Subcommittee Recommendations in Response to the Admission Office's Interim Student-Athlete Admission Policy for 2005 through 2007 Academic Year." She explained the subcommittee's work in adding definitions for the three criteria by which international student-athletes are admitted to the UW, "routine," "priority," and "special." The categories "routine," "priority," and "special" are distinguished by more specific grade point average requirements. Regular guest Phil Ballinger explained that the process of admitting international students with a grade point average below 3.0 as special admits has been problematic because of the limited number of special admits allowed per year and the differences in grading systems for some countries. A motion was made to approve the proposed language changes and seconded. The motion was approved.

Cunningham updated council members on the Provost's task force. She noted that they addressed how to identify someone who needs help with English. They decided that they will not base it on their citizenship. Using test scores, they discussed what low point would identify students who needed help with English. Cunningham explained that there is an online screen test from New Zealand that costs \$195 and takes about 20 minutes. She summarized by saying that they have not achieved any definition yet and are looking at correlations within pieces of data. President's Designee Todd Mildon noted that the data analysis suggests that they would channel freshman into support services. He added that they are concerned because there is no data on transfer students, and that all students will need to be briefly assessed.

- SCAP

The recorder asked for clarification on SCAP new business item #5 from the April 18, 2008 meeting. The item had been withdrawn, with an amended 1503.

Council members revisited the issue of departmental graduation requirements that set a higher grade point average than the university graduation minimum of 2.0. It was noted that this council oversees this process, and asked whether they should provide guidelines for it. Ex Officio Rep Robert Corbett shared that departments can set the requirements for their majors which can include grade point average. Several concerns were expressed about potential grade inflation, advisers who are operating under a different understanding, and the idea that particular majors should be setting a higher benchmark than others. There was agreement that a fundamental understanding is needed. Talk of forming a subcommittee included turning to the Graduation and Admissions work group, forming an ad hoc committee with members from the college councils, and having the FCAS subcommittee SCAP take it on. Chair Dillon described the situation as "begging the neighbor," and suggested that SCAP work on preparing a resolution that calls for this committee.

- Honor's Subcommittee (Shaufelberger)

Council member John Schaufelberger updated the council on the recent reception at President Emmert's home at which he awarded the annual Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior Medals award to three undergraduates for their outstanding academic achievement. He also noted that the President's Medal finalists have been selected

- Academic Rigor (Schaufelberger)

Schaufelberger updated the council on the Academic Rigor & Quality task force's draft questionnaire that will be sent out this month to all departmental Chairs. The committee will focus on independent study courses, special topics courses, and the Engagement Index, a measure of rigor in courses.

- HEC Board (Corbett)

Corbett gave a presentation on the Washington State Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB). He described the HECB as a tri-fold authority and explained the areas over which it has authority, its goals, and its Strategic Master Plan for higher education. Corbett provided a handout highlighting key points about the HECB's role in higher education, and its goals. Corbett outlined some of the key goals in the master plan which include increasing the number of undergraduate and graduate degrees. The increase in degrees awarded is based upon an anticipated increase of approximately 30 percent of new students over the next 10 years. A discussion began about the implications in the HECB plan. Regular guest Phil Ballinger described the timeframe for expecting an increase in students with degrees as artificial. He noted its implications for enrollments across campuses statewide. The goals, given the current demographic trends are not realistic. The changing demographic shift toward the more non-traditional student will have an effect on college participation rates, access, and funding. Ballinger suggested that they need to effect what happens at the K-12 level. This means reaching back to the elementary and middle school level with general information that tells them how with preparation they can go to college. Council members discussed further the problems that second generation immigrant students have in connecting with college, and how information on the upcoming shift in student population would be worthwhile sharing with the faculty and Board of Regents at UW.

4. Old Business

This item of business was addressed in the Chair's report

5. New Business

There was no new business

6. Adjournment

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

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

Present: Faculty: Almgren, Cunningham, Dillon (Chair), Fitzpatrick, Holt,
Johnson, Keil, Shaufelberger

President's Designee: Mildon

Ex Officio Reps: Fugate, McManaway, Iseminger, Rocha, Haag Day

Regularly Invited Guests: Ballinger, Corbett, Sahr, Wiegand

Absent: Faculty: Stroup (excused)

Regularly Invited Guests: Winslow