

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

Chair George Dillon called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Approval of minutes
2. Chair's report
 - Cross-campus Class B legislation passed Senate
3. Subcommittee reports:
 - Admissions and Graduation (George Dillon for Susanna Cunningham)
 - SCAP (Jay Johnson)
4. Old Business (Todd Mildon)
 - Bothell grade appeal and policy issue
5. New Business
 - Report (Robert Corbett)
6. Adjourn sine die

1. Approval of minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.

2. Chair's Report

Chair Dillon reported that the Class B legislation on cross-campus enrollment policy passed through the Faculty Senate. It is now in the hands of the President. If he approves the legislation it will then go to the full faculty for a vote.

3. Subcommittee Reports

• **Admissions and Graduation (George Dillon for Susanna Cunningham)**

Dillon reported on the latest meeting of the English Language Proficiency subcommittee. He reviewed the history behind the creation of the task force and noted that UW students are currently required to pass the English language proficiency test for graduation.

He reported that the task force met today and will have at least one more meeting before submitting a report. Dillon noted that they need an interim arrangement, and that waivers will be given to students until an outcome is decided upon. There is some concern about the idea of suspending the requirement because of the potential difficulty in reinstating it. Dillon said they will keep an eye on what happens in the fall. A modified form of the committee will meet next year and Dillon suggested that they keep Susanna Cunningham's liaison with that group. A question of clarification was posed about the

test students will be taking to demonstrate English language proficiency. The pilot test will be a quick online screening test, administered by the Office of Educational Assessment. If a student has a problem with the online test they will be required to take a full diagnostic test. The problem with students not passing the English Academic Program test is that they end up repeating the ESL courses or get a lower score than in their previous class. Council members discussed possible “options” for getting students who fail to pass the AEP exam up to speed on English proficiency.

Dillon noted that this is an issue that is not going away with the changing demographics of more non-native English speakers who are approaching college age. He clarified that it is not international students affected by the UW requirement but rather non-citizens who are non-native speakers of English. President’s Designee Todd Mildon stated that community college transfer students, of whom 45% indicate that English is not spoken at home, are the source of that demographic shift in college student. A discussion followed about the screening process. It was pointed out that all incoming freshman will be screened, with the possible exception of students with SAT scores that satisfy English language proficiency. Mildon noted that the plan is for the subcommittee to write up a report that will identify units on campus that should take action on the problem, and then it will go to FCAS.

- **SCAP (Jay Johnson)**

SCAP Chair Jay Johnson reported that the subcommittee had three items this week, two which passed as routine. He introduced the routine items as “consent agenda.” The first routine item was new business in which the Dance department (DANCE-20080508) requested a revision in the requirements for the major in Dance within the Bachelor of Arts. The addition of dance courses to the list to fulfill the major was described as straightforward.

The second routine item was a request by Construction Management (CM-20080409) for a revision in the requirements for the major in Construction Management within the Bachelor of Science. Johnson noted that the request for the replacement class, CM 301, was approved by SCAP after a discussion with the department.

Johnson called for a motion to approve the two routine items. The motion was made and seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

The third item was old business concerning the Communication department’s request (COM-20071031) to revise the admissions catalogue copy to specify how many times students can apply to the major, in what time frame students may apply, and how they can appeal a denial. Johnson explained that the department was seeking to limit the number of students admitted to the major, but that the effects of the timing element were too restrictive. The attorney general’s office indicated that they will approve the requests with the department’s rationale. Johnson noted that SCAP has denied the requests after speaking with advisors and will work with the Communication department to find a proposal that works. Regular guest Debbie Wiegand shared that advisors feel that the

problem resides in the university's satisfactory progress rules. Comments from advisors included the idea of using credits rather than time to measure a student's academic progress. Johnson handed out for discussion an illustration of the use of credit hours to measure students' academic progress rather than a time line. He also brought up the idea of using graphics to show students their academic progress.

Johnson introduced a handout entitled, "Task Force on Academic Progress of UW-Seattle Undergraduates." It was a list of recommended changes to the approval processes by which students change majors and degrees, or enroll in multiple majors or degrees, by a subcommittee of the Undergraduate Academic Advisors Council. He noted that it recommends that FCAS begin discussion of this in the fall. Wiegand invited council member John Schaufelburger, who will serve as Chair of FCAS next year, to attend an advising council meeting before the issue comes to FCAS in the fall.

4. Old Business (Todd Mildon)

- **Bothell grade appeal and policy issue**

Chair Dillon explained the background: Several UW-Bothell freshman who were graded pass/fail on a core course and then dropped below the required number of credits needed to be on the Dean's list have petitioned to get the course regraded with a 4.0 grade because they passed the course. The issue has been reviewed several times by Registrar Todd Mildon. A counter offer to the students was made to grade the course in line with the average grade in their other courses. The policy has been corrected so that the required course is now graded. However, the petitioners are pressing their case. The Registrar's office maintains that the requirements for the Dean's list are well known, the students could have taken other credits to make up the difference to make the list, and that allowing exceptions to the policy would be unfair. Council members discussed possible alternate responses to the students' dilemma. It was noted that the Bothell Chancellor has said that it is not a priority issue. Dillon asked council members if they wanted to make a statement. A motion was made to affirm that FCAS does not think the current policy should be changed and that the grade policy should not be waived. The motion was seconded, and approved unanimously. Dillon noted that he will send a message to Bothell's Provost on the council's action.

5. New Business

- **Report (Robert Corbett)**

Robert Corbett reported to FCAS on the new Environmental Studies option that is currently under tri-campus review. The option will be part of the Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences (IAS) program at UW-Bothell and Corbett says, will require 70 credits. The question was raised whether it was truly an option since a regular major is roughly 90 credits and the number of required credits for the option exceeds 50% of that needed for a major. Questions raised included whether students taking 70 credits deserved a major instead of an option, and whether the university should be offering options. Corbett pointed out that UW-B is in the process of requesting to turn the six options in IAS into majors. He noted that they hope to get the degree program to the Washington State

Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) by winter of '09. Dillon summarized and noted that he will send a message to the Provost about the discussion and concerns raised.

6. Adjourn sine die

Council members approved the adjournment of the meeting at 3:07 p.m.

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

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

President's Designee: Mildon

Ex Officio Reps: Iseminger, Rocha

Regularly Invited Guests: Corbett, Sahr, Wiegand, Winslow

Absent: Faculty: Cunningham (excused), Stroup (excused)

Ex Officio Reps: Fugate (excused), McManaway, Haag Day (excused)

Regularly Invited Guests: Ballinger