

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS
FRIDAY, October 10, 2008, 1:30-3:00 p.m.
211B Mary Gates Hall

Chair John Schaufelberger called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Chair's report
 2. Approval of minutes of May 30, 2008
 3. SCAP Report (Jay Johnson)
 4. Old Business
 - FCAS Subcommittee on Departmental Grade-Based Graduation Requirements
 - Working Group on English Language Proficiency
 5. New Business
 - UW Handbook Language Regarding Application for Degrees
 6. Adjourn
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1. Chair's Report

Chair John Schaufelberger welcomed council members to the first meeting of the academic year and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Schaufelberger referred to three issues noted in the council's Annual report that will carry over into this year's council work.

- The work of the ad hoc Committee on Academic Quality and Rigor, approved by the Senate Executive Committee last year, is jointly held with the Faculty Council on Instructional Quality. Schaufelberger noted that three of the members are either former or current FCAS members. The ad hoc committee is working with the Office of Educational Assessment (OEA) in focusing on "special topics" courses with large numbers of students in them.
- The Provost's English Language Proficiency subcommittee that is looking into the remedial English courses required for international students. Schaufelberger noted that the Admissions Director is under pressure to find a solution to the difficulties that the current English language requirement is creating for some students. The OEA created an English language screening tool that has been administered to approximately 1,500 students. It is hoped that the OEA will be able to process the survey results in order to reach some conclusions soon.

- Last year the council decided to modify the approval process for routine items brought to it by the Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs (SCAP).

The next order of business was to vote on whether representative group members of FCAS would be given the privilege of voting. Voting faculty members unanimously approved granting voting rights to the members from representative groups (ALUW, UAAC, PSO, ASUW, GPSS).

Schaufelberger briefly described the three standing FCAS subcommittees, SCAP, Admissions and Graduation, and Honors and Awards. He reviewed the charge of each subcommittee and sent around a sheet on which council members could sign up.

Chair Schaufelberger also noted the recent formation of a subcommittee to address concerns raised about departmental grade based requirements. Council member Brad Holt will chair the subcommittee. A brief discussion ensued about the university grading policy, rules that govern grading in the Faculty Handbook, and the fact that some departments are submitting 1503 forms to request a change in grade policy. Council members referred to copies from the online catalogue showing graduation grade point average requirements by department. A concern raised was whether students are being treated unfairly. The question is whether or not there should be some criteria to guide graduation grade point policy across the university. Holt proposed to lay out the issue to all college council academic advisors.

2. Approval of minutes of May 30, 2008

The chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes from May 30, 2008. The motion was made and seconded, and the minutes were approved as submitted.

3. SCAP Report (Jay Johnson)

Chair Jay Johnson gave a brief overview of the function and process of the Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs for new council members. He explained the difference between routine and non-routine items, and how all new program changes must be voted on by FCAS. Johnson noted that he would be using the recently approved “consent agenda” for all routine items. This format expedites the review process by processing all routine items in one group to be approved by the voting council members. Johnson added that the Curriculum office will archive program changes (1503s) on its website.

Routine Items:

Johnson introduced the 17 “routine” items listed and asked for a vote to approve them.

1. Astronomy (ASTR-20080818)
2. Atmospheric Science (ATMS-20080312)

3. Communication (COM-20080707)
4. Diversity (DIVERS-20080519)
5. Law, Societies, and Justice (LSJ-20080327A)
6. Law, Societies and Justice (LSJ-20080327B)
7. Linguistics (ROLING-20080610)
8. Mathematics (MATH-20080312)
9. Music (MUSIC-20080527D)
10. Sociology (SOC-20080801)
11. Computer Science and Engineering (CSE-20080602)
12. Forest Resources (ESRM-20080618A)
13. Forest Resources (ESRM-20080618B)
14. Forest Resources (ESRM-20080618C)
15. Forest Resources (ESRM-20080618D)
16. Forest Resources (PSE-20080618)
17. Forest Resources (PSE-20080620)

A procedural change was suggested to ask first if anyone would like to remove an item from the list for discussion. When no request was made for discussion, the call for approval was made, seconded, and all routine items were approved unanimously.

Non-routine items:

Johnson proceeded to review three non-routine items. The first item involves the department of Asian Languages and Literature's (JAPAN-20080513) request that all courses counted towards the 75 credits required for the major be completed with a 2.0 grade or higher. Johnson explained that the subcommittee felt the department was attempting to manage the number of students entering the major, and that a more useful approach would be creating a competitive admissions process. They will work with the department on this issue.

The second item involves the Chemistry (CHEM-20080228) department's request for the removal of CHEM 355 from the program catalogue, and the enforcement of a 15 credit in residence requirement for the minor. Johnson noted that the residency request was for 15 credits at the Seattle campus, a campus-specific residency precedent.

A discussion began about the origin of the request and whether the concern was a tri-campus issue or a larger one stemming from the fact that students could take courses elsewhere, transfer them here, and receive credit for a minor without having taken one course here. The issue of residency for minors has not been considered before. Schaufelberger noted two key issues, one is that the Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS) will do a check on a student's residency credits towards a minor, and the other is that waiver access will be available as well. A motion was made to approve the proposed changes. The motion was seconded, and approved.

The third item involves several program changes by the department of International Studies (EURO-20080327). Johnson noted that he will hold the vote while the issues are under SCAP review. He reported SCAP's primary concern was the request for a requirement that the foreign study component of the major must be in Europe. With no substitute project allowed, the issue is one of fairness. The time and expense of a European trip could possibly prevent some students from getting the needed experience for the major. Another issue was that the list of requirements was considered "vague." Johnson noted that they will speak with the IE department and hope to fine tune the request.

Other business:

Johnson outlined some old business issues. The first issue was the minimum grade requirements for minor/majors from last year. Brad Holt's new subcommittee will address the issue. It was noted that Dick Simpkins was researching the issue over the summer. A suggestion was made to invite him to speak to FCAS. A question raised was where the policy originated that allows departments to set their own grade requirements for graduation.

The second piece of old business was the revision of the 1503 form. Johnson noted that it was felt that the form needs to be updated to reflect tri-campus issues. He said the form will also be updated to check for approval for program changes that impact other departments, in notifying them and getting their approval.

4. Old Business

- FCAS subcommittee on Departmental Grade-Based Graduation Requirements
Schaufelberger noted that this item was already addressed in the chair's report.

- Working Group on English Language Proficiency
Schaufelberger said that he was not sure about the future direction of this subcommittee. There is a need to deal with transfer students right away and some students have been issued waivers. Waivers are being awarded to students based on where they came from, and whether students had been taking the same remedial course multiple times. Schaufelberger noted that students who know they need help can turn to the diagnostic test. He added that FCAS's concerns are related to Admissions and Graduation which is looking at the courses listed for 5 credits in the English department that do not count toward the degree. The question raised is should students get elective credit for these courses? Another question is do students need a certain grade in English to get admitted? Schaufelberger noted that the policy for non-citizen students has not changed. He will be attending the subcommittee meetings, along with Todd Mildon.

5. New Business

- UW Handbook Language Regarding Application for Degrees

Schaufelberger explained that he recently discovered that some language in the University Handbook needs to be revised. This will involve Class B legislation which will be taken up by SCAP.

- Residency Requirement—University or Campus

Council members discussed the issue of whether or not to do something about the lack of clear residency requirement for minors. The issue involves both tri-campus and distance learning. While it is possible for students to get a UW Seattle minor without setting foot on the Seattle campus, it was noted that minors are distinct from majors in that they have multiple objectives and primarily serve as an expanding experience for students. Council members agreed that while control over the academic process is a legitimate concern, this council would not take up the issue.

6. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

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

Present:	Faculty: Cunningham, Fitzpatrick, Holt, Johnson, Keil, Schaufelberger (Chair), Taggart
	President's Designee: Mildon
	Ex Officio Reps: Fugate, Nguyen
	Regularly Invited Guests: Wiegand
Absent:	Faculty: Almgren, Stroup
	Ex Officio Reps: Haag Day, Meske
	Regularly Invited Guests: Ballinger, Corbett, Sahr, Winslow