

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
FACULTY COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS  
FRIDAY, October 24, 2008, 1:30-3:00 p.m.  
224 Mary Gates Hall

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

**Meeting Synopsis:**

1. Chair's Report
  2. Approval of minutes of October 10, 2008
  3. Report of Admissions & Graduation Subcommittee (Susanna Cunningham)
    - Proposal to Discontinue Use of Michigan Test of English Language Proficiency
    - Revised Admissions Policy for Student Athletes
  4. SCAP Report (Jay Johnson)
  5. Old Business
    - Working Group on English Language Proficiency
  6. New Business
    - Curriculum Committee for the University Honors Program
  7. Adjourn
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**1. Chair's Report**

Chair John Schaufelberger handed out copies of the FCAS subcommittee sign-up list for council members to confirm.

Schaufelberger also addressed the current restructure of the Graduate School academic program review process. He explained that as part of the restructuring of these reviews both FCAS and the Faculty Council on Instructional Quality have been asked to provide one member each to attend review committee meetings. Schaufelberger said he would send copies of the program review guidelines to FCAS members. A discussion began about the changes made to the review process and why undergraduate programs are reviewed by the Graduate School.

**2. Approval of minutes of October 10, 2008**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**3. Report of Admissions & Graduation Subcommittee (Susanna Cunningham)**

- **Proposal to Discontinue Use of Michigan Test of English Language Proficiency**

Council member Susanna Cunningham explained about the Admissions & Graduation subcommittee's October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting at which two actions were taken that need FCAS approval. The first action was the proposal to discontinue the use of the UW administered Michigan Test of English Language Proficiency (MTELP). Cunningham noted that the Michigan test was being discontinued because it was both out-of-date and there were other tests available to replace it. A motion was made to approve the discontinuation

of the Michigan Test of English Language Proficiency. The motion was second, and approved unanimously. The changes will become effective for fall 2009 students.

- **Revised Admission Policy for Student Athletes**

The second action was a proposal to revise the admission policy for student athletes. Susanna Cunningham explained the three categories for newly admitted student-athletes:

- Routine admission
- Priority admission
- Special admission

She noted that the university is allowed to admit up to 100 new freshman and transfer student-athletes from the categories “priority” and “special.” Proposed changes include clarifying the appeal process language, instituting academic year-end progress and retention reports on special admission students, and adding criteria for international student-athletes. Regular council guest Phil Ballinger explained how a student is labeled as a “student-athlete” and reported that there are currently 600-700 UW recruited students who fit that label. He described some of the differences in policy from 4-5 years ago, noting the increase in academic standards made. A motion was made to approve the Revised Admission Policy for Student Athletes. The motion was seconded, and approved with no further comment.

#### **4. SCAP Report (Jay Johnson)**

SCAP Chair Jay Johnson reported on 7 non-routine items: 3 from the School of Music, 3 from French and Italian Studies, and one from the School of Nursing.

Johnson began with the request by Nursing (NURS-20080710) for revisions in the program and admission requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. He reported that the school did not check with the Microbiology department prior to making MICROM 302 a required course. The problem has since been resolved. A motion was made to approve the Nursing request. The motion was seconded, and approved as submitted.

Johnson next introduced three requests from the School of Music that would enable it to create new options in the major. The first request (MUSIC-20080527A) sought to make some changes to the program requirements for the bachelor degree, and to change the name from Bachelor of Arts in Music: Theory-History, to Bachelor of Arts in Music.

A motion to approve the proposed changes was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

The second (MUSIC-20080527B) and third (MUSIC-20080527C) requests asked to create new options in Music History and Early Music within the Bachelor of Arts in Music. Johnson noted the school’s effort to insert a grade point graduation requirement of 3.0 in all courses with these requests and that SCAP felt that the issue needed to be looked at in the FCAS subcommittee. SCAP agreed to approve the options if the school pulled out the 3.0 requirement.

A motion was made to approve the two School of Music options, with the contingency that they would pull out the 3.0 requirement. The motion was seconded, and approved unanimously.

Johnson collectively introduced the three requests from the department of French and Italian Studies (FRENCH-20080410A), (FRENCH-20080410B), and (FRENCH-20080410C). He reported that SCAP approved the proposed revisions to the program requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in French, but wanted the 2.0 graduation grade point requirement removed. It was felt that the grade point requirement would be acceptable if it was a 2.0 cumulative grade, rather than in each course.

A motion was made to approve the three program revision requests from the department of French and Italian Studies, with the contingency that the 2.0 grade point requirement is made cumulative. The motion was seconded, and approved unanimously.

Johnson noted two other pieces of SCAP business: the revision of the 1503 form, and the consideration of foreign study requirements. He reported that revising the 1503 form is an ongoing process to make it more Tri-Campus friendly. SCAP will review the form after a few more revisions are made.

SCAP members felt that they would like to invite key people from the International Programs and Exchanges office and the College of Arts and Sciences to discuss the foreign study requirement issue. Johnson said that while other programs have the same requirement, SCAP is concerned about issues of fairness, quality, and oversight. He noted that they are working on making contacts.

## **5. Old Business**

- **Working Group on English Language Proficiency**

Chair Schaufelberger gave an overview of the English Language Proficiency issue that is affecting non-citizen residents at UW. The proficiency requirement is also affecting approximately 500 transfer students. Schaufelberger reported that he discovered that English 100 was created in May 1981 for zero credits, and a CR/NC-only grading was issued for it. Schaufelberger said he would like to find out how this decision was made. He also found out that in 1993 the course was changed by the ESL program to 5 credits so that it would be in the student's grade point average, and that it was "deductible," which meant that it wouldn't count towards credits needed to graduate. It was pointed out that a particular problem is with A.A. transfer students because they may have already completed English composition at a community college. Last year transfer students who were graduating were granted waivers if they could show they had a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and a 3.0 GPA in their writing courses. There are also legal implications related to the appearance of treating non-citizen students differently than others. A pilot test of a diagnostic screen was given this fall to approximately 1200 students, and the data is being analyzed for differences in language ability. A viable solution may be to differentiate students through their English grade. If the Arts and Sciences 2.0 requirement for English composition is used as the standard, all incoming transfer students would need to get a 2.0 in their English composition course. A point was made that a course may demonstrate a student's language ability better than a test. Schaufelberger made a case for counting any English courses over Eng. 100 as electives and asked if any Council member had a concern about the concept. Council members pointed out that these courses are not electives, but are being required by the University. In addition, the ESL courses at issue are all offered through the

