

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
FACULTY COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS  
FRIDAY, November 21, 2008, 1:30-3:00 p.m.  
224 Mary Gates Hall

Chair John Schaufelberger called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

**Meeting Synopsis:**

- 1. Chair's Report**
  - 2. Approval of minutes of October 24, 2008**
  - 3. SCAP Report (Jay Johnson)**
  - 4. Old Business**
    - Curriculum Committee for the University Honors Program**
  - 5. Adjourn**
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**1. Chair's Report**

Chair John Schaufelberger announced that Gus Jespersen has been appointed to FCAS as the GPSS representative.

He reported that the Special Committee on Academic Rigor will have a report sometime in late winter and that they are busy analyzing data.

Council guest Phil Ballinger gave an update on the English Language Proficiency Working Group. He reported that the working group has created a report for the Provost in which they propose using a support-based program. The plan requires significant funding, but they are also devising an interim policy that they hope to present to the Provost by mid-December. Ballinger read from the list of recommendations, which includes screening all incoming students for whom English is not their primary language and who not possess standard test scores with the Diagnostic English Language Needs Assessment (DELNA). He noted that it will be a good screening tool for students transferring with A.A. degrees because it will help explain their English language levels. If students score too low on the DELNA, they would then be asked to take the Academic English Program (AEP) diagnostic exam. Ballinger characterized those transfer students who come with good grades and English proficiency issues as usually coming from homes where English is a second language. Transfer students possessing an A.A. degree would not be required to take AEP courses, but would be advised that they need help with their English skills. The listed recommendations include awarding credit toward graduation for AEP courses. It also proposes omitting the required fees associated with the extra courses.

Council member Brad Holt inquired whether the university can require competency levels for students in English language when they are not required in other areas such as math and history. Council members discussed the current situation which is relatively successful for students, but takes them longer to get through. A general concern exists among faculty about undergraduate students who lack a sufficient level of English language ability. There is also concern about graduate students who lack sufficient English

language skills and are teaching. One proposal for winter quarter is to link an English course with an ESL course, as part of the working group's recommended development of support structure. It was suggested that they invite the working group chair, Sandy Silberstein, to speak with FCAS members about the recommendations since some of them need council approval. President's Designee Todd Mildon reminded members that the budgetary challenges UW faces will mean that program development is on hold for now. He also reported that student classification by citizenship status will go away. Chair Schaufelberger suggested that directly asking students whether they were native speakers of English would likely elicit the same information about their English language abilities as the screening tool. Council member Rick Keil asked to get a copy of the Washington State transfer agreement. Ballinger said he would send it to the recorder to distribute to all council members. Council members discussed the transfer agreement and concerns heard from the business community about UW graduates who can't write well. Council member Susanna Cunningham asked if there was a UW body that gathered information about external complaints. Mildon noted that he receives broad feedback from the business community but no data.

## **2. Approval of minutes of October 24, 2008**

Schaufelberger called for any corrections to the minutes. Council guest Robert Corbett asked for some corrections to the Chair's Report. A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved as amended.

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

SCAP Chair Jay Johnson noted that there was one old and one new routine business item, and an update on the revised 1503 form. Johnson reported that representatives from the Jackson School recently met with SCAP members to discuss International Studies' (EURO-20080327) request to require its students to complete their foreign study component in Europe. He noted that SCAP discovered that the overseas requirement was not a new policy and has been in place since 1995. Johnson said that SCAP then approved the change as routine.

A motion was called for approving the program change. The motion was seconded, and approved unanimously.

The second issue concerned a request by Laboratory Medicine (LABM-20081022) to revise its required admission course by shifting a previously recommended course (BIOL 118) to a required admission course. Johnson reported that the request is not going forward until they get additional information.

Copies of the revised 1503 form were distributed. Johnson reported that areas were added for listing departments affected by program changes and getting appropriate signatures. He noted that the revised form was sent out to both UW-Tacoma and Bothell campuses for review.

A motion was made to approve the revised 1503 form. The motion was seconded. A discussion began about the revised form. Keil explained how as chair of his college council he receives the forms the day before the review and doesn't think he will have the time to carefully check that the appropriate

