

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS
FRIDAY, December 12, 2008, 1:30-3:00 p.m.
224 Mary Gates Hall

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

Meeting Synopsis:

- 1. Chair's Report**
 - 2. Approval of minutes of November 21, 2008**
 - 3. Old Business**
 - Curriculum Committee for the University Honors Program**
 - 4. SCAP Report (John Schaufelberger)**
 - 5. Adjourn**
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1. Chair's Report

Chair John Schaufelberger announced that the Honors subcommittee had finished their selection of freshman, sophomore and junior medalists.

He reported that the working group on English language proficiency (ELP) would be producing an interim report to the Provost, including two recommendations that will require action on the part of FCAS. The first would exempt students who transfer with an AA or AS degree from a Washington state community college from having to meet the current English language proficiency standard. These students would still be given a short diagnostic test and advised accordingly about appropriate ELP classes, but they would not be required to take them. The second recommendation would only make ELP classes a requirement for graduation if a student is a non-native speaker of English, rather than basing it on citizenship. Both of these recommendations would change university undergraduate graduation requirements and so would require action on the part of FCAS. Schaufelberger said that the determination of whether a student was a non-native speaker would be determined through self-reporting. He noted that self-reporting correlated well with what students scored on the proposed short diagnostic test during its trial.

Schaufelberger said that the draft of the interim report would probably be completed by the end of the month, and would include additional recommendations to the Provost, but only these two would directly affect academic standards.

2. Approval of minutes of November 21, 2008

Schaufelberger asked if there were any corrections for the minutes. Since there were none, a motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved.

3. Old Business

-- Curriculum Committee for the University Honors Program

Schaufelberger said that he had invited James Clauss, Director of Honors to explain their University Honors Program's request to create its own curriculum committee rather than working with that of the College of Arts & Sciences. He noted that one of the previous questions of FCAS was whether this proposed committee would have any role in approving courses offered within departments as part of their Honors curriculum. Clauss said that this was not the case, but it was a reasonable confusion since university honors and departmental honors are interwoven, but distinct. Clauss said that he had begun a review of the program after becoming the director over a year ago, reviewing its strengths and weaknesses. He noted that, as part of Honors' academic program review in 2005, the program was charged with revitalizing the curriculum. Additionally, in going through the courses offered by the program, Clauss said that it was clear that the program itself is university-wide, with courses taught by faculty in Law, Nursing, Social Work, etc. as well as Arts & Sciences.

After discussing the issue with Dean Ana Mari Cauce of Arts & Sciences and Dean Ed Taylor of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (UAA), Honors proposed creating its own curriculum committee including four faculty from Arts & Science, one each from Engineering and Business and two rotating faculty from other schools and colleges. This curriculum committee would review courses and programmatic changes, which would then be signed off by the Director of Honors and the Dean of UAA, after which they would go either to the University Curriculum Committee or FCAS. In addition, the current prefix under which courses are listed in the catalog, H A&S, would be changed to HONORS. The change in oversight would reflect the fact that courses are offered by faculty from across the university.

As for the curriculum itself, the part that would be overseen by the new committee would consist of a variety of rubrics currently approved as H A&S prefix courses. The Honors curriculum consists of general education courses. Those that fulfill major requirements are developed and approved by the individual departments, not by Honors. Students wishing to receive university honors do have to take much of their general education in H A&S courses, but departments are in control of how students fulfill requirements for a major. With a program specific curriculum committee, the signatures required would parallel those of other programs, i.e.:

Program director → Honors Curriculum Committee → UAA Dean → University Curriculum Committee
or FCAS

Chair Schaufelberger asked about whether courses offered by Honors were specific to the faculty member's discipline. Clauss said that it depended on the type of course, but only the courses offered under the current rubric or a new one approved by the committee would go through the proposed process. Departments would continue to control their classes even if they fulfilled honors requirements for their majors. Clauss noted that by intention, most classes offered under the H A&S prefix were interdisciplinary, and mentioned as an example an upcoming class on representations of Helen. Sarah Culpepper Stroup asked whether either the faculty member's department or a department for which a specific course may overlap their curriculum had any say over Honors classes. Clauss said that as it stood, the rubrics already approved under the current process allow for offering courses across a broad array of disciplines.

Schaufelberger proposed Brad Holt's suggestion from the last meeting of FCAS: that the members of the Honors curriculum committee are either current or former members of their own college or school's curriculum committee. He noted that the experience of these members would be helpful in addressing the very questions that had been raised by the Council, but also in anticipating other issues. Vikki Haag Day said that these members also could raise questions about overlap or duplication with Honors classes and communicate back to the colleges. Clauss said in fact this change addressed issues he had not foreseen until discussing the matter with the Council. Schaufelberger said that it would be good also to charge the colleges themselves with nominating members to the committee, so it would be easier to find representatives. He added that the Council would be happy to discuss with Clauss other procedural matters involving the committee once it was formed. For now, the Council would go ahead and approve a recommendation of the proposal including the change to the composition of the curriculum committee's membership.

Rick Keil asked whether there was any reason to limit Honors to General Education. Clauss said that there were some 300-level classes, but the emphasis for now was on General education. He noted that another goal of the change would be to create a third track in honors distinct from the current two forms of university honors (graduating *with honors*) and departmental honors (graduating *with distinction*). Clauss also asked about the procedure for changing the prefix of the classes. Registrar Todd Mildon said that, once the new committee had been formed, Honors could send a memo to UAA and the Curriculum Office requesting the change, as it did not involve FCAS.

After the discussion, Rich Fitzpatrick moved that the Council accept the proposed change in oversight for the University Honors program, with the stipulation that the curriculum committee be made up of faculty from the corresponding curriculum committees of the respective colleges, and be put forward by the colleges themselves. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

4. SCAP Report (John Schaufelberger)

Chair Schaufelberger presented the SCAP report as committee chair Jay Johnson had said he would be absent for the meeting. Schaufelberger first presented two "non-routine" items. The first was an approval for a new option in Early Music within the BA in Music (MUSIC-20080527C). This proposal had gone to tricampus and the department had answered all the comments raised there. A motion to approve was seconded and approved unanimously.

The second proposal was for the approval of a renamed minor in Asian Language & Literature (ASIAN-20080825). Schaufelberger explained that the nature of the changes--consolidating minors in Hindu and Sanskrit into one minor and adding Bengali and Urdu to that minor--was such that the proposal should be consider a new minor. SCAP had requested that the department submit a revised front page for their 1503 and they had agreed, although a copy had not yet been sent to the Curriculum office. Schaufelberger said it seemed reasonable to recommend sending the proposal to tricampus (since it is a new minor) pending receipt of the revised front page. A motion, pursuant changes to the proposal's form, was made and seconded. The Council approved the motion.

Routine Items

