

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS
FRIDAY, January 30, 2009, 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 the Minutes of January 16, 2009
 3. Admission and Graduation Subcommittee Report (Susanna Cunningham)
 4. SCAP Report (Jay Johnson)
 5. Old Business
 - Academic Program Review Process
 6. Adjourn
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1. Chair's Report

Schaufelberger began with an update on the request to transfer oversight of the curriculum for the University Honors Program (UHP) from the College of Arts and Sciences to that of the office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs. He noted that he had sent a memo to the Provost asking for approval of the request. The Provost agreed with FCAS's recommendations, and sent an email to the deans on January 22nd, approving the request subject to the council's stipulations.

Schaufelberger reported on an inquiry from a faculty member who was concerned that he was violating the University handbook on Registration (vol. 4, chapter 2, sec. 1A), because he has had visiting scholars, faculty members, and even students to his class who have made presentations, and the handbook states that a person must be registered in the class in order to be in it. Schaufelberger explained that he told the professor that the handbook does not specify UW faculty, so that it was allowable to have someone visit from another university and present research. He noted that his own department treats visiting professors like faculty, and gives them courtesy appointments with library privileges when they stay on awhile. The issue is whether students from another institution can participate in a UW class. Schaufelberger shared his feeling that as long as the students are not taking the class and are acting as guest speakers, they should be encouraged to share their research. The issue highlights for the council the areas of the handbook that are in need of revision. Schaufelberger advised the council to look at revising the handbook section on registration when they revise the section on graduation.

2. Approval of the Minutes of January 16, 2009

Schaufelberger asked members if they had any corrections or additions to the minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved as submitted.

3. Admission and Graduation Subcommittee Report (Susanna Cunningham)

Susanna Cunningham reported on a recent change in how the university records transfer credits. She explained the four ways that transfer credits come to the university: other institutions, International Baccalaureate (IB), advanced placement (AP), and Armed Forces Training School (AFTS). Cunningham explained how the current system stores the credits in separate databases and why, with the 90 credit

transfer limit, it made sense to put all the credits together and count them in one category. The change simplifies the process and makes it easier to track the credits. Cunningham introduced Emily Leggio, Senior Associate Director for Policy, Admissions, who spoke about the new system for recording transfer credits and provided the council with an example from the database. Leggio handed out a sample transcript to illustrate how credits are currently recorded. She noted that the change will improve the way credits are recorded, adding UW to the titles, and will show the credit limit differently. Leggio explained how the Degree Auditing Reporting System (DARS) and the undergraduate advisors should find it easier to work with the new transfer credit recording system.

Council members asked Leggio several questions about the change. Leggio was asked if a student can transfer more than 90 credits. She replied that UW policy limits a student to 90 lower division transferable credits toward the degree, but that they have the option to petition. Leggio noted that the new system helps “tidy up the world,” by identifying courses that have been awarded double credit. Leggio noted that they will eventually need to update the handbook, not as a policy change, but as an interpretation of policy. She also explained how the change does not affect the number of transfer students admitted, how Running Start applicants are treated as freshman admits, and how the proportionality agreement only applies to community college transfer students.

Action: A motion was made to approve counting IB, AP, and AFTS transfer credits in with traditional transfer credits. The motion was seconded. With no further discussion, the motion was approved.

The Chair announced to Cunningham an item assigned to her, relating to the workgroup on English Language Proficiency and the recommendations it made to the Provost for testing. Schaufelberger explained that the Graduations and Admissions subcommittee will be looking into how the recommended testing requirements fit within the university’s graduation requirements. He noted the need for an audit trail of the policy change. The recommendations require diagnostic testing for all students, and allow for an exemption for those transferring in with an A.A. degree.

4. SCAP Report (Jay Johnson)

Jay Johnson reported that SCAP met recently but did not have a quorum, and that they used an electronic review to get approval.

Johnson reported that the review of the department of Asian Languages and Literature (ASIAN-20080825) request (name change and program requirement revisions for a minor) has gone to Tri-Campus review, and come back to SCAP. SCAP has approved the department’s requests as non-routine.

Action: A motion was made to approve the Asian Languages and Literature (ASIAN-20080825) request after Tri-Campus review. The motion was seconded, and approved as submitted.

Johnson updated the council on the meeting with Kevin Mihata, Assistant Dean for Educational Programs, College of Arts and Sciences, and Bob Stacey, Divisional Dean for the Humanities and Arts. SCAP met with Mihata and Stacey to talk about the College of Arts and Science’s proposal to change its foreign language requirements to waive the 103 proficiency requirement for students who enter the university with a 3.0 or better in their third year (or later) of foreign language study. Johnson explained how they were told that the policy in the catalogue would need to be revised, which requires making a formal request through a 1503 form. He noted that they agreed to go back and file a 1503. Johnson raised two troubling philosophical questions about the proposed change that he said were a preview to future discussions. First, Johnson pointed out that they are asking high schools to give grades for the university’s graduation requirements. Second, SCAP was troubled by the fact that the policy change was driven by a decrease in funding. When Johnson asked them what failure of their plan would mean, he

was told there would be a decrease in enrollment. SCAP members raised the question, “where’s the academic quality argument here?” A discussion began about the departments using financial rather than academic reasons to make program changes. Johnson noted that he anticipates more of this coming up, and that it gives the council something to think about. It was pointed out that students have the option to test out.

Johnson also pointed to the administrative costs associated with the proposed policy change. Leggio was asked if the university maintains high school transcripts. She noted that the UW academic transcript indicates the foreign language level and grade, but there is no course by course checking of grades. In addition to an increase in work load level, Leggio noted that are differences in grading standards between high schools.

Schaufelberger reported that SCAP resolved the issue of how many 1503 forms a college needs to submit for program changes, and approved the requirement of only one 1503 form. He noted that the message to be sent to the College of Arts and Sciences is that SCAP expects to hear a pedagogical argument for the proposed change to the foreign language admissions requirement. It was suggested that SCAP notify Mihata and Stacey to let them know they should indicate on the 1503 form their justification for use of high school grades. Members discussed the difficulty UW Admissions faces in tracking detailed high school grades, and in determining a student’s language profile. Schaufelberger suggested giving students a test, and adapting it if it is seen as unfair because the language focus is different than what they are exposed to in high school.

5. Old Business

- Academic Program Review Process

Schaufelberger updated council members on FCAS’s participation in the Academic Program Review process. He identified the programs under review this year (handout) with undergraduate programs, and noted that Jay Johnson is on his list for the Art department review. Schaufelberger explained his view of the process. He sees FCAS working with the charge committee to look at 1503 actions within the last few years concerning curriculum, and devising a couple of questions for the review committee. Schaufelberger felt they would ultimately receive a copy of the final review, perhaps with answers to their questions. Schaufelberger said that he will contact the chair of the Faculty Council on Instructional Quality to see how they might coordinate which review meetings they plan to attend. Members discussed the timetable for the current academic program reviews, pointing out that in the new system the charge meetings are to discuss what the self-study will be. Gunnar Almgren volunteered to attend the review meetings for the department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences.

Schaufelberger told council members that there will not likely be an FCAS meeting on Friday, February 13, 2009.

6. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

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

Present: **Faculty:** Almgren, Cunningham, Fitzpatrick, Holt, Keil, Schaufelberger, Stroup, Taggart
President’s Designee: Mildon
Ex Officio Reps: Fugate, Phuong,
Regularly Invited Guests: Corbett, Etkorn (for Sahr), Sayrs (for Wiegand)
Absent: **Ex Officio Reps:** Jespersen, Meske, Haag Day

Regularly Invited Guests: Ballinger, Winslow

Special Guests: Emily Leggio, Senior Associate Director for Policy, Admissions
Ken Etzkorn, Director, Curriculum Planning and Special Programs, Undergraduate
Academic Affairs (for John Sahr)