

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS
FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2009, 1:30-3:00 p.m.
224 Mary Gates Hall

Chair John Schaufelberger called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Chair's Report
2. Approval of the minutes of May 22, 2009
3. SCAP Report (Jay Johnson)
4. Admission and Graduation Subcommittee Report (Susanna Cunningham)
5. Special Subcommittee on Program-Based Grade Requirements Report (Brad Holt)
6. Undergraduate Academic Advising Council Recommendations on Academic Progress (Deborah Wiegand)
7. FCAS Topics for Academic Year 2009-2010 (John Schaufelberger)
8. Adjourn

1. Chair's Report

Chair John Schaufelberger welcomed members to the last scheduled council meeting of the academic year. He also invited members to attend a luncheon on Thursday, June 18th for the council staff member who will be leaving the council next year.

Schaufelberger also noted that Jay Johnson, long time FCAS member and Chair of SCAP, will be retiring at the end of this year. ASUW member Phuong Nguyen will also be leaving the council next year in order to finish her studies at the University.

The Chair made a request to change the order of the agenda to accommodate guest Emily Leggio (Senior Associate Director for Policy, Admissions), who will speak about the status of the English Language Proficiency policy. The SCAP report will follow.

2. Approval of the minutes of May 22, 2009

The minutes for May 22, 2009 were approved as submitted.

3. Admission and Graduation Subcommittee Report (Susanna Cunningham)

Emily Leggio addressed a couple issues that arose from language in the ELP testing policies recently approved by FCAS. The first issue concerned the fact that the language refers to “all students.” She explained that she felt the working group had intended to exempt international students in an effort to remove citizenship as the criterion for screening for English Language Proficiency. Leggio sought clarification that international students were now to be included among all students screened upon entering the University. She noted that they are not looking to change that inclusion, and they will apply the new exemption criteria to all international students. Leggio also noted that in exempting students with Washington State associate degrees, it appears that the numbers from last autumn show that about 65% of the international students identified to come in and take the diagnostic test would be exempt under the new English Language Proficiency requirements.

Leggio said they have not figured out all of the implementation plans and that while the task involves “daunting” programming issues, they are doing their best to work out the necessary steps to implement the new policy. Susanna Cunningham pointed out that there will be some international students in this interim policy who be required to take the DELNA, and that it doesn’t require any action at the moment but is something they should be aware of. Schaufelberger reported that Sandra Silberstein told him the ELP working group likes the simplicity of the policy because it treats all the students the same. He also noted that Phil Ballinger reported a potential problem in that students typically apply to the University before they receive their transfer degree. The question was how they will deal with the issue. Leggio explained that her office is looking for a solution that will allow students who are “projecting” an associate degree to delay taking the screening until the second quarter. She noted that they are looking for ways in the first year of the policy to use the delay process more generously because they will not be able to fully assess the information.

Schaufelberger thanked Leggio for coming to today’s council meeting.

3. SCAP Report (Jay Johnson)

Chair Jay Johnson reported on two non-routine program items and eight routine items.

The first non-routine item was a request by Chemistry (CHEM-20090224) for new admissions requirements and a continuation policy for the Bachelor of Arts degree and the Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry and Biochemistry. Johnson noted that Chemistry has been growing and is in a situation where they would like competitive admissions. He explained that the department chair came to the last SCAP meeting and answered a list of questions raised. Johnson said his group was very comfortable with the results. He also noted that Biochemistry had a 2.8 graduation requirement which they have moved back to a 2.5 GPA. David Sayrs pointed out that the 2.8 cumulative is still listed on the Biochem ACS-Certified proposed requirements. It was felt this was a simple change that the council could approve on condition.

Action: A motion was made to approve the Chemistry department’s request, on the condition that the Biochemistry ACS-Certified GPA requirements are lowered from 2.8 to 2.5. The motion was seconded, and carried. (Note: Chemistry did agree with lowering the GPA requirements from 2.8 to 2.5, and the 1503 form was signed by the FCAS Chair on June 16, 2009.)

The second item was a request from Political Science (POLS-20080108) for a new option in International Security within the Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. Johnson reported that SCAP had approved this once before, and that the department was looking for a second approval. Schaufelberger read some of the comments coming in from Tri-Campus review and noted that he didn't see the connection to undergraduate education. Johnson noted that Political Science already has an option, and this is just another one.

Action: A motion was made to approve the request by Political Science, and seconded. The motion was passed.

Johnson reported that SCAP discussed the routine items and saw them as straightforward changes. There was one exception. The request by the **College of Engineering** (ENGR-20090304) to revise its requirements for the College Honors Core still needs the approval of the Honors group. A request was made to remove the College of Engineering item from the routine items.

Action: A motion was made to approve the following seven routine items. The motion was seconded, and approved.

- **Nursing** (NURS-20090526) is requesting revised admissions requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.
- **Comparative History of Ideas** (CHID-20090129A) is requesting revised program requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Comparative History of Ideas.
- **Comparative History of Ideas** (CHID-20090129B) is requesting revised program requirements for the minor in Comparative History of Ideas.
- **Slavic Languages and Literature** (SLAVIC-20090601) is requesting revised program requirements for the options in Eastern European Languages, Literatures, and Culture and Russian Language, Literature, and Culture within the Bachelor of Arts degree in Slavic Languages and Literatures and the minors in Slavic Languages, Russian Literature/Slavic Literatures, and Russian Language.
- **Chemical Engineering** (CHEME-20090514) is requesting revised admission and program requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering degree.
- **Computer Science and Engineering** (CSE-20090511A) is requesting revised program requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science Engineering degree.
- **Computer Science and Engineering** (CSE-20090511B) is requesting revised program requirements for the Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science.

The council took up the College of Engineering item. It was pointed out that College honors have a different set of guidelines than departmental honors.

Action: A motion was made to approve the College of Engineering request on the condition that the Honors program approves of it. The motion was seconded, and approved on condition. (Note: The

Honors Program did approve the College of Engineering's request, and the 1503 form was signed by the FCAS Chair on June 16, 2009.)

5. Special Subcommittee on Program-Based Grade Requirements Report (Brad Holt)

Holt handed members copies of the "FCAS Special Subcommittee on Program-Based Grade Requirements." He gave an overview of the background issues and explained the proposed guidelines for cumulative grade graduation requirements and minimum grade graduation requirements in courses. He pointed out that a major change was in allowing departments to specify a certain subset of classes that students are required to get a particular grade in. He noted that what they want to avoid is departments requiring that students must get a particular grade in a course without justification. Existing program graduation requirements would be grandfathered in. Holt asked for any comments. Johnson noted that as a committee member he thought the guidelines were well laid-out and would be helpful.

Schaufelberger asked for approval to change the guidelines to read, "Approved FCAS Proposed Guidelines on Grade Requirements for Graduation" which could then be posted on the council webpage, and sent out with the 1503 form through Jennifer Payne.

Action: A motion was made to approve the proposed guidelines on grade requirements as "approved by FCAS." The motion was seconded, and approved.

6. Undergraduate Academic Advising Council Recommendations on Academic Progress (Deborah Wiegand)

Debbie Wiegand handed out copies of the "Undergraduate Academic Advising Council [UAAC] Recommendations on Academic Progress of UW-Seattle Undergraduates." She explained that the issue concerns students who pursue two bachelor degrees at the same time. Currently, a student majoring in two areas, such as Economics and Sociology, getting a Bachelor of Arts degree in both, can elect to get a double major, one for each major, or get two degrees, a BA with a major in Economics and a BA with a major in Sociology. If they pursue the latter route, they are required to get 225 credits.

There is one part of the proposed University handbook changes that requires the council's approval. The proposed UAAC changes state (current language precedes, proposed language underlined):

Two bachelor's degrees with different majors may be granted at the same time, but the total number of academic credits shall reach a minimum of 45 credits in excess of the number normally required for a first bachelor's degree. Colleges shall differentiate when a double major is appropriate and when two bachelor's degrees should be awarded at the same time. For example, in most cases two degrees should not be awarded when both majors lead to the same degree objective (i.e., BA/BA, BS/BS, etc.) even when the total credits earned exceed 225. Two bachelor's degrees shall be awarded in cases where a student completes all requirements for two degree objectives that have different requirements (BA/BS, BA/BFA, etc.). If a college allows two bachelor's degrees to be awarded for the same degree (i.e. BS/BS), it must demonstrate that degree objectives are different enough to necessitate a second

degree rather than a double major. Dual degrees that offer curricular and resource efficiencies are preferable.

Wiegand noted that the proposed changes leave open the possibility for colleges to award two degrees in certain situations. She asked the council to consider the policy change that would impact the College of Arts and Sciences, including the College of the Environment (COE).

Johnson inquired why students would want to do one or the other. Wiegand explained that a perception exists among students that having two degrees is more valuable than having two majors. Schaufelberger inquired about the issue of students who pursue degrees across college boundaries, and must get an extra 45 credits in order to get a degree from each college (unless there is an agreement between the colleges). He asked who should be looking into the issue. Wiegand acknowledged that the proposed changes do not address that issue. She noted that few students pursue double degrees, and there is only one major in Oceanography who is doing this now. Schaufelberger expressed the concern of the Provost's office that the movement of the Program of the Environment into the COE and into the Arts and Sciences has the potential for more students to pursue double degrees. Todd Mildon noted that he felt the issue is a good FCAS issue.

It was pointed out that currently students cannot get a double major across colleges, with the exception of Oceanography, which has an agreement worked out. Wiegand noted that what they want to avoid is agreements made on an individual basis, especially if many more students pursue double degrees. Johnson noted that the issue had generated concern because there was confusion about when students were supposed to announce their major, and that these guidelines address that issue by clarifying satisfactory progress toward degree.

Schaufelberger noted that he would work on crafting additional language that would allow him to bring these handbook changes, along with the ones on ELP testing policies, in one package through the Senate approval process.

Holt introduced a "radical" idea that would prohibit students from getting double degrees with the same title, rather than offering guidelines for double degrees. A discussion began about the idea and the possibility of writing language so that students would be able to pursue two majors across colleges, thus avoiding the need for college coordination. Students would also be limited to one degree unless they were pursuing two purely separate degrees, such as a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering and a Bachelor of Science in Math. Wiegand noted that there has to be some real justification to get a second degree. Robert Corbett raised the issue that some colleges have more designated degrees than others, and speculated whether the COE degrees will have a different designation than those in the Arts and Sciences (even though they have the same degree titles, BA/BS). He suggested that some colleges are penalized because they don't have degree designations. Holt explained how in the past students could earn a second degree by taking the required extra 45 credits in whatever courses they chose, thereby fulfilling the second degree with essentially 180 credits.

Schaufelberger asked Wiegand if she could query the advisors about the idea of making a university policy that says students can earn only one degree, unless they earn separate degree titles (BS/BA), and

that students can earn two majors across colleges. He felt that the idea is a clean solution and would like advisors' input. A discussion began about the underlying principles of the issue, and the perceived value of dual degrees versus dual majors. Holt suggested that the simplest solution is to not allow two degrees. Mildon underscored the importance of encouraging students to move onto the next level of study rather than pursue a second degree because it's a better use of their time. John Sahr noted that he would like to see students finish in four years, but wondered if a student were to take 240 credits in four years would it be perceived as a problem, or would the student simply be super-ambitious? Mildon noted that there are other costs associated with students who take so many credits, such as time spent with faculty and advisors. A lively discussion followed.

Schaufelberger asked members how they felt about Holt's proposal. He said that if they found it reasonable he would work on it over the summer. Keil noted that he would need more information before he could accept the change because in Oceanography students often pursue two Bachelor of Science degrees.

Wiegand next reviewed three recommendations regarding procedural changes. She explained that they will ask that students need to apply for graduation by the time they have earned 180 credits (rather than the current 210). The big issue concerns the workload for advisors. Wiegand noted that there will be some variation across colleges.

She explained that students will also be asked to obtain approval from their major advisor before declaring a minor, in order to encourage students to make satisfactory progress towards their degree. It was pointed out that the recommendation doesn't address students who might declare a minor before entering a major. Marine-Biology is the exception which allows students to sign up for the minor as a pathway into the major. Wiegand noted that she would follow up on what happens for pre-majors.

Last, departments are being asked to "create specific satisfactory progress policies to help facilitate timely degree completion and allow appropriate access for students seeking degrees." Wiegand noted that they are requesting the help of SCAP in creating guidelines to share with departments. The focus is to help students take courses that count towards the major. A discussion began about the importance of tracking the guideline changes in the minutes and whether or not certain items should be written in the code because of their prescriptive language.

7. FCAS Topics for Academic Year 2009-2010 (John Schaufelberger)

Schaufelberger reviewed the topics the council will address in the 2009-2010 academic year. Those topics include:

- Cross-campus enrollment (with FCTCP, Janet Primomo)
- Results of the holistic admissions policy
- The kind of metrics used to assess special admit students
- *Kuali Student*, the new student administrative system. Wiegand would like to talk about the implications for how they do business
- The separation of degrees between UW campuses

- Open majors becoming competitive majors
- The mathematics issue in community colleges

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

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

Present: Faculty: Cunningham, Holt, Johnson, Keil, Schaufelberger (Chair)

President's Designee: Mildon

Ex Officio Reps: Fugate, Nguyen

Regularly Invited Guests: Corbett, Sahr, Wiegand, Sayrs

Absent: Faculty: Almgren, Fitzpatrick, Stroup, Taggart

Ex Officio Reps: Jespersen, Meske, Haag Day

Regularly Invited Guests: Ballinger, Winslow

Special guest: Emily Leggio, Senior Associate Director for Policy, Admissions

Faculty Council on Academic Standards Policy Relative to Program-Based Grade Requirements

A. *Cumulative Grade Graduation Requirement:* (UW requires 2.0 for all courses)

1. Programs are permitted to have 2.0 cumulative GPA requirement for courses within the major.
2. Programs may request cumulative GPA in the range of 2.0 to 2.5 for courses in the major and/or all UW courses. The programs must document and provide justification for the request. Provided adequate academic justification is provided, FCAS will approve such requests.
3. Programs requesting cumulative GPA requirements greater than 2.5 for courses in the major and/or all UW courses must provide strong justification for the request. In general, except in exceptional cases and with very strong academic justification, FCAS will not approve these requests.

B. *Minimum Grade Graduation Requirement in Individual Courses:* (UW requires 0.7 in each course)

1. Programs may request that students achieve a minimum grade in each course of a subset of the courses required for a major, every course for a major, and/or all UW courses in the range of 0.8 to 2.0. The programs must document and provide justification for the request. Provided adequate academic justification is provided, FCAS will approve such requests.
2. Programs requesting a minimum grade in each course of a subset of the courses required for a major, every course for the major, and/or all UW courses exceeding 2.0 must provide strong documented justification for the request. In general, FCAS will not approve these requests.

C. *Existing Program Graduation Requirements*

All existing program graduation requirements are grandfathered in.
Should a program with graduation grade requirements exceeding these policies wish to change its requirements, the new proposal will be considered under these guidelines.

Adopted by the Faculty Council on Academic Standards on June 5, 2009.