

**Faculty Council on Academic Standards**  
2008-2009 Annual Report  
Submitted by John Schaufelberger, Chair

The Faculty Council on Academic Standards (FCAS) is responsible for matters of university policy relating to the academic affairs of the university, such as admissions policy, scholastic standards, university graduation requirements, and inter-institutional academic standards (University Handbook, Volume 2, Part 4, Chapter 42, Section 42-34).

This responsibility falls into the following four primary areas:

1. Review new and revised undergraduate (and some professional) degree programs.
2. Provide guidance to the Office of Admissions in the development of operating policies and procedures for admission.
3. Provide guidance to the Office of the Registrar in the development of operating procedures for continuation and graduation.
4. Establish criteria for Baccalaureate Honors and select Medalists for freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior classes.

FCAS addresses these primary areas through subcommittees and works on related issues either through working groups, special subcommittees, or the council as a whole (as appropriate). FCAS met every other week (except for finals and break weeks) during the academic year, with subcommittees and working groups meeting separately. The following is a summary of the activities of FCAS for the 2008-2009 academic year.

#### **Non-Routine Actions**

In addition to the normal flow of business, FCAS handled four other major issues. In response to several requests for establishment of grade-based graduation requirements, the chair appointed a Special Subcommittee on Program-Based Grade Requirements under the leadership of Brad Holt. Existing program-based grade requirements were identified, and college curriculum committees were queried for input. Based on the information collected, the Special Subcommittee presented a policy recommendation to FCAS on June 5, 2009, and the policy was unanimously adopted.

The Provost's Working Group on English Language Proficiency presented a proposed revision to the current graduation requirement regarding English Language Proficiency. FCAS declined to approve a revised graduation policy, but instead voted to terminate the current policy and to implement a new continuation policy relative to English Language Proficiency. Since the new policy is neither an admission or a graduation requirement, it will not be published in the University Handbook. Instead, it will be published in the University Catalog to provide an audit trail regarding the date of policy approval. Transfer students who come to the University of Washington with transferable Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, or Associate of Arts and Science degrees will be exempt from English Language Proficiency screening. Other students who do not present sufficiently high standardized test scores will be screened for English Language Proficiency.

The Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences requested authorization from the Provost to transfer oversight of the curriculum for the University Honors Program from the College of Arts and Sciences to Undergraduate Academic Affairs. The Provost asked FCAS for a recommendation on the proposal. The Council reviewed the proposal, met with the Director of the Honors Program, and recommended that the request be approved with the stipulation that the

members of the curriculum committee established for the Honors Program be selected by the curriculum committees of the represented schools and colleges. This recommendation was approved by the Provost.

The Council also made changes to the Form 1503 that is used to create and change undergraduate academic programs. The form was revised to provide space for recording tri-campus coordination and a space for coordination with other affected departments.

### **Review of New and Revised Degree Programs**

The Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs (SCAP) under the leadership of Jay Johnson reviewed all proposals for new degree programs, majors (and options within majors), and minors as well as all changes for existing majors and minors. FCAS, acting on SCAP's recommendations, approved 56 routine revisions to major and minor requirements. The Council also approved non-routine revisions in Chemistry, Nursing, Music, French and Italian Studies, Asian Language and Literature, Human Centered Design and Engineering, Comparative Literature, and Political Science. FCAS approved a revision to the foreign language graduation requirement for the College of Arts and Sciences and a new Bachelor of Paramedicine degree.

### **Honors**

The Honors Subcommittee under the leadership of Gunnar Almgren established the criteria for Baccalaureate Honors and selected recipients for the freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior medals.

### **Admission and Graduation Requirements**

The Subcommittee on Admissions and Graduation under the leadership of Susanna Cunningham proposed elimination of the Michigan Test of English Language Proficiency, a revised policy for admission of student athletes, and a proposal to combine all transfer credits (from other institutions, International Baccalaureate, advance placement, and Armed Forces Training School) into a single data base. All three proposals were approved by FCAS.

### **Council and Subcommittee Membership**

**Council Members for 2008-2009 Academic Year:** Gunnar Almgren, Philip Ballinger, Robert Corbett, Susanna Cunningham, Vicki Haag Day, Richard Fitzpatrick, Cynthia Fugate, Brad Holt, Gus Jespersen, Jay Johnson, Richard Keil, Dina Meske, Todd Mildon (President's Designee), Phuong Nguyen, John Sahr, David Sayrs, John Schaufelberger (Chair), Sarah Stroup, and Jennifer Taggart

**Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs:** Robert Corbett, Richard Fitzpatrick, Brad Holt, Jay Johnson (Chair), Todd Mildon, Phuong Nguyen, Jennifer Payne (Recorder), David Sayrs, John Schaufelberger, and Matt Winslow

**Subcommittee on Admissions and Graduation:** Susanna Cunningham (Chair), Cynthia Fugate, Don Janssen, Richard Keil, and Sarah Stroup

**Subcommittee on Honors:** Gunnar Almgren (Chair), Todd Mildon, and John Schaufelberger

**Special Subcommittee on Program-Based Grade Requirements:** Brad Holt (Chair), Jay Johnson, Richard Keil, Phuong Nguyen, and Jennifer Taggart

**Recorder:** Melissa Kane