

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS
FRIDAY, May 14, 2010
224 MARY GATES HALL

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Chair's Report
2. Approval of the Minutes of April 30, 2010
3. SCAP Report (Brad Holt)
 - Consent agenda (routine)
4. Competitive Undergraduate Majors
5. Adjourn

Call to Order

Chair Schaufelberger called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm

Approval of the minutes from the April 30, 2010 meeting

The minutes of the April 30, 2010 meeting were approved as written.

Reports & Business Items

1. Chair's Report (John Schaufelberger)

Chair Schaufelberger reported that the Honors subcommittee had met and selected the two President's medalists for commencement. He then said that, depending on how many items SCAP had for approval at their last meeting, he intended for the next meeting of FCAS to be the final one, rather than that scheduled for June 11th. He said he was bringing since he wanted to talk about topics for FCAS to consider next year and asked that Council members think about such topics in advance of May 28th meeting.

2. SCAP Report (Brad Holt)

A. Old routine Business

College of Education- ([ECFS-20100329](#)) Change admission and program requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Early Childhood and Family Studies.

Background: The Early Childhood and Family Studies program is changing their admissions requirements to make the previously required courses strongly recommended prior to admission, is moving them to program requirements for the major in addition to a Math or Statistics course, and allowing a new course EDUC 310 to be taken in the place of EDUC 305.

Justification: The current admissions requirements are confusing prospective students and the faculty feel that these changes should make the process clearer. EDUC 310 is a new course that is a good alternative to EDUC 305.

Approved

3. Competitive Undergraduate Majors

Schaufelberger distributed an email from the Office of Academic Data Management that provided figures that compared the number of undergraduate competitive majors in 2004 and 2009. Below is the chart presented:

	#Offered	#Majors Declared
<i>Autumn 2004</i>		
Competitive	79	7323
Minimum	49	4273
Open	55	3260
Unknown	10	40
<i>Autumn 2009</i>		
Competitive	85	9894
Minimum	53	4450
Open	57	2995
Unknown	11	54

Schaufelberger said that though the perception is that the number of competitive majors has grown substantially, the above data suggests that the change has been gradual. Holt noted that the number of students who declared a competitive major had increased 20%, but the other categories of students had remained the same. Schaufelberger said that showed that these majors were accommodating the students coming to the university. He said that what was also interesting was the decrease of students enrolling in open majors. Schaufelberger said that a theory suggested that with the increase of competitive majors, more students would have to enroll in a default major, but that did not appear to be happening.

Says said that the problem identified by the advising office is anecdotal, but that it was also driven by a concern for the future. He pointed out that in the last year four majors had been made competitive. Kramer said that since these numbers reflected autumn 2009, they didn't necessarily reflect majors recently made competitive.

Pengra said that if the number of students were to be divided by the number of competitive majors, the ratio of students per competitive major would be shown to have increased. Schaufelberger said the concern with the impact of the budget cuts is that competitive majors would choose to admit fewer students, but it may take a few years for this to occur.

Holt said another question concerns the student who is refused admission to a competitive major and then is unsatisfied with the (probably open) major they do enroll in. He gave the

example of physics, which is sometimes seen as an alternative to an engineering major. Pengra said that physics has begun developing two tracks, one of which would prepare students for graduate school, while the other would deal more with applied physics. Entrance requirements for the whole major would remain the same, however. Pengra also noted plans of the department to offer a track in biophysics, since that is an growing area of interest amongst students.

Schaufelberger said that, for now, the numbers from the Registrar's Office did not warrant further action and that the issue should be looked at in the future. Haag Day said that it would not necessarily be advisors who would hear complaints. Some programs have "ghost" majors who register, but don't take classes. This is because students are required to declare a major at 105 credits. She said that problem would show up increases in the number of students require more than 180 credits, but that the problem isn't as easy to discern with data as it might seem.

Haag Day noted that, at least in the case of Business, there is a set total number of majors that can be admitted, which can't be adjusted even for qualified demand. Schaufelberger said that there are two options for a department with fewer teaching resources—bigger classes or restricting admission. Haag Day said that it wasn't clear whether the number of majors in required in competitive departments is managed centrally. In addition, open majors can themselves only handle so many students before they get impacted, resulting in students taking longer to graduate.

4. Signature on Diplomas for Double Majors

Schaufelberger said that there was a last issue for discussion which had been emailed to him by Sayrs. This concerned how to decide which Dean's signature will appear on a diploma for a student who receives a double major from two different school or colleges. At a Faculty Senate meeting, Virjean Edwards of the Registrar's Office said that the current system uses the first major the student registered for.

Sayrs that there is a way that GARS could switch it, but that they are maintaining that the current policy is the one recommended by FCAS, which he didn't think was the case. Schaufelberger said that one issue is that the student is not at the university when the diploma is printed, so the database itself would have to indicate what the student wanted if it was different from the default. Holman said perhaps students should be asked. Haag Day said that actually it was the first major that shows in the system, since it depends how an advisor fills out the paperwork as to which major gets priority on the diploma.

Sayrs said that he hoped that FCAS would say that students can choose to override the default in case they wanted a different Dean's signature to appear on their diploma. Schaufelberger said it was ok, as long as the student does it, but he also didn't want to institute a policy where GARS was required to ask them. Sayrs said that the goal is to have a reasonable process rather than an arbitrary one, though it may require more work for GARS. Haag Day said that advisors would now have to be aware of this when advising students double majoring in two colleges. Schaufelberger said it would be good idea to have a

provision for changing in case a student felt strongly about it. Taggart said that the advisor should know how to fill out the form so the student wouldn't have to change it.

Mildon said that at the very least the minutes would show that the decision should left to the student, but that using the current policy as the default one should be continued fine. Kramer asked whether it would have other ramifications. Sayrs said he didn't know of any other connections, but that he was discussing with Tina Miller and Edwards about whether the second college could be listed in the student database just in case. As for ABB, Holt said that double majors will be treated the same as double degrees.

Adjournment

Chair Schaufelberger adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

*Minutes by Robert Corbett Coordinator of New programs UAA/The Graduate School
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Present: Faculty: Schaufelberger (Chair), Cunningham, Holman, Holt, Kramer, Pengra, Stroup, Taggart

President's Designee: Mildon

Ex-Officio Reps: Fugate, Padvorac, Haag Day, Allen

Regularly Invited Guests: Corbett, Sayrs

Absent: Faculty: Almgren, Keil

Ex Officio Rep: Jespersen

Regularly Invited Guests: Ballinger, Winslow, Wiegand