

**Faculty Council on Academic Standards**  
2009-2010 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 2009-2010 academic year.

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

In addition to the normal flow of business, FCAS handled four other major issues. During much of the Autumn Quarter, FCAS conducted a detailed review of the University's Scholastic Regulations that are contained in Volume 4 of the University Handbook. Class B legislation was drafted to:

1. Update the regulations to conform with current admission, registration, credit by examination, transfer credit, and graduation policies and procedures.
2. To enable course instructors to invite guests to participate in their courses.
3. To enable undergraduate students to earn a single degree with double major from different colleges.
4. To require undergraduate students to receive a single degree with double major when both majors lead to the same degree objective.

The legislation was approved by the Faculty Senate on March 11, 2010 and became effective on April 14, 2010.

FCAS reviewed the freshmen holistic review admission process that was adopted by the Board of Regents to apply to the class entering Autumn 2006. The policy has now been in use for four cycles, and the perception is that its outcome has been positive. Not only has the academic profile of admitted students been raised, but the University also has improved on measures of diversity.

FCAS examined the number of competitive and open majors. Data presented indicated that the number of competitive majors had increased from 79 to 85 between 2004 and 2009 and that the number of open majors increased from 55 to 57 in the same time period. The number of students enrolled in competitive

majors increased by 35%, while the number of students enrolled in open majors declined by 8% during the five-year period. The data did not indicate that students were not having difficulty in identifying a major in which to graduate.

In conjunction with the Faculty Council on Tri-Campus Policy, FCAS conducted an evaluation of the Undergraduate Cross Campus Enrollment Policy. Questionnaires were developed for academic advisers and for students on all three campuses. Most cross campus enrollment was from students at Bothell and Tacoma who enrolled in Seattle campus courses.

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

The Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs (SCAP) under the leadership of Brad Holt 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 51 routine revisions to major and minor requirements. The Council also approved non-routine revisions in Anthropology, Aquatic and Fishery Science, Chemical Engineering, College of the Environment, Computer Science and Engineering, Dance, Economics, Environmental and Occupational Health, Forest Resources, Health Informatics and Health Information Management, and International Studies.

### **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 a change to the Academic English Program (AEP) to be effective Autumn Quarter 2010. The proposed change will allow students to repeat English 101, 102, 103, or 104 only once. If the student fails the course a second time, a hold will be placed on the student's registration and the student will take an approved standardized test that places them in the next level of AEP or satisfies the requirement completely, successfully completes the Intensive English Program, or stay out for a quarter and takes the AEP evaluation examination after a time away. The subcommittee also proposed an advanced placement (AP) exam policy that AP test results may be submitted only for courses taken in high school and for tests taken during or within 6 months of leaving high school. AP test results may not be used to waive admission requirements. Both proposals were approved by FCAS.

### **Council and Subcommittee Membership**

**Council Members for 2009-2010 Academic Year:** Gunnar Almgren, Philip Ballinger, Grant Blume, Robert Corbett, Susanna Cunningham, Vicki Haag Day, Cynthia Fugate, Nicholas Holman, Brad Holt, Richard Keil, Todd Milton (President's Designee), Jason Padvorac, David Pengra, John Sahr, David Sayrs, John Schaufelberger (Chair), Sarah Stroup, and Jennifer Taggart

**Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs:** Robert Corbett, Vicki Haag Day, Nicholas Holman, Brad Holt (Chair), Patricia Kramer, Todd Milton, Jason Padvorac, Jennifer Payne (Recorder), David Sayrs, John Schaufelberger, Jennifer Taggart, and Matt Winslow

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

**Subcommittee on Honors:** Gunnar Almgren (Chair), Richard Keil, Todd Milton, David Pengra, and John Schaufelberger

**Recorder:** Alex Bolton