

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
FACULTY COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS  
FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2011  
142 GERBERDING HALL  
1:30-3:00 PM

**Meeting Synopsis:**

1. Approval of the minutes of April 1, 2011
  2. SCAP Report (Brad Holt)
    - A. Consent agenda (routine actions)
    - B. Non-routine actions
  3. Policy for AP and IB Credits (Deborah Wiegand)
  4. New Course Proposals that Duplicate Existing Courses (Deborah Wiegand and Matt Winslow)
  5. Adjournment
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**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

**Reports & Business Items**

**1. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the April 1, 2011 meeting were approved with changes.

**2. SCAP Report (Brad Holt)**

**A. Consent agenda (routine actions)**

1. **Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies - (GWSS-20110302)** Change name of major from a Bachelor of Arts degree in Women Studies to Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies

Background: The department has received approval from the College and the Provost's Office to change the name of the department, the course prefixes, and all programs of study from Women Studies to Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies.

SCAP Action Taken: 04/08/2011 - Approve routine and recommend forwarding to FCAS.

**Approved**

2. **History - (HIST-20110124)** Revised program requirements for the minor in the History of Science

Background: The department would like to move the specified list of electives to an approved list of electives to provide flexibility to add or remove courses to the list.

SCAP Action Taken: 04/08/2011 - Approve routine and recommend forward to FCAS.

**Approved**

3. **Mathematics - (ACMS-20110307)** Revised program requirements for the option in Mathematical Economics within the Bachelor of Science degree in Applied and Computational Mathematical Sciences.

Background: The department is updating the list of courses approved for the Mathematical Economics option. Remains specified in the catalog.

SCAP Action Taken: 04/08/2011 - Approve routine and recommend forwarding to FCAS.

**Approved**

4. **Information School - (INFO-20110324)** Revised admission requirements for the Bachelor of Science degree in Informatics.

Background: The School is changing the admissions application date from April 15 to June 15.

SCAP Action Taken: 04/08/2011 - Approve routine and recommend forwarding to FCAS.

**Approved**

## **B. Non-routine actions**

1. **Aeronautics and Astronautics - (AA-20110301)** New Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering degree.

Background: The department of Aeronautics and Astronautics is requesting to create a new degree program to be offered in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

SCAP Action Taken: 03/11/2011 - Forward to FCAS without recommendation. SCAP also developed a list of questions that were sent to AA department for response.

SCAP Action Taken: 04/08/2011 - Response received 4/11 and will be forwarded to FCAS for review.

### Discussion:

Holt said that a list of concerns was sent, and Aeronautics and Astronautics has agreed to essentially all of it. The only thing new is that, technically, this is a provisional approval and the program will be reviewed in 6 years. FCAS approval would send it on its way for other steps, such as tri-campus review.

In response to a question about who would admit the students, Ballinger said there would be no exceptional nature to the admission process; it would be the same as for all others. Admissions would be competitive for these slots, but these slots would not be in competition with the overall university admission. These students would have to meet the same minimum standards and be subject to the same transfer credit approval as all students.

Points were made that it was not clear that the program would be implemented, and that many things still needed to come together for that to happen. However, FCAS has done its role to ensure that academic standards will be upheld.

### **Approved**

#### 2. **Linguistics - (ASL-20110216)** New minor in American Sign Language

Background: The Linguistics department is proposing a new minor in American Sign Language due to high student demand.

SCAP Action Taken: 04/08/2011 - Pending approval and forwarding to FCAS if department removes 2.0 in each course requirement.

#### Discussion

Jennifer Payne detailed issues with the proposal: it initially didn't meet guidelines for minors passed by FCAS at the beginning of the year, and has since been revised, but includes two problematic classes. Linguistics 403 doesn't have an identified source of funding and Linguistics 400 has issues with both limited class space and frequency and timing (summer quarter) of offering.

The council debated whether a proposed minor should be approved or not based on whether a course can be offered, and the role of FCAS in implementing that standard. After considering proposals to put Linguistics 400 and 403 on a list of approved electives instead of being requirements, approving the proposal contingent on the demonstration of the ability and resources to offer it, and approving the proposal as-is, the council voted to not approve the proposal in its current form.

Care was taken to point out that the action should be seen as requesting more work be done on the proposal, not against the concept of a minor in American Sign Language.

### **Not Approved**

#### **3. AP/IB Credit Policy**

The council continued its discussion of Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate (AP/IB) credit policies. Wiegand referred to a document containing three potential AP/IB policy statements [**Attached – Appendix A**]. She summarized that FCAS and others interested have talked about either a limit on credits or setting up a separate way of looking at satisfactory progress that wouldn't include AP/IB. She said Running Start has also been brought up, but those credits are different in that they are transferrable college credits, not credit by exam, and the issue needs to be looked into further.

Wiegand said that there are student concerns about coming into UW with high numbers of credits and being told to complete a major when they feel like their accumulated AP/IB credits are really high school credits. There are also concerns with choosing majors, not being able to get into their desired major, and having to graduate earlier, all because of credit totals.

In the ensuing discussion, a number of themes emerged that reflected competing goals or values, making the creation of a clear policy more difficult:

- Many students take AP/IB classes for the course rigor and enhanced admissions prospects, and not necessarily for the credit from successfully scoring highly on the test. However, accumulating credits prior to matriculation may force early major declaration or graduation.
- Students taking AP exams could choose to not report those scores to UW, thus alleviating any worries about entering with too many credits. But at the time they make the decision to report scores, UW has no way of contacting them specifically or efficiently.
- While some students may not wish to apply AP/IB credits because they want to have a full four years at the university, others may wish to apply them all and graduate as soon as possible.
- Some students who may not wish to apply AP/IB credits to major declaration or graduation totals can nonetheless use their enhanced class standing to register earlier.
- AP and IB credits don't work the same way: AP credits come test by test, while IB diploma holders currently get a block of credits.
- Financial aid rules may complicate the earlier or later application of credits.
- Various proposals would either increase the advisor load at the front end or the back end of a student's matriculation.
- Running Start credits are fundamentally different than AP/IB credits, yet there are similar issues that can arise from entering UW with large numbers of either. Additionally, there are equity concerns with the demographics of students who have broad access to AP/IB courses compared to those that trend toward Running Start.

Additionally, some current policies, procedures, and numbers were clarified:

- The current policy on credits is really based on planning. At 105 credits, a student without a declared major has a hold put on registration and must see an advisor. They can be put in an extended pre-major category.
- Satisfactory progress guidelines are currently "squishy". Students with huge numbers of credits tend to be the top students, and are not going to be kicked out of the university.
- The number of entering students with large numbers of credits is relatively small, about 100 per year with over 45 credits.

The council discussed the need to create a clear policy to ensure consistency for students and advisors. Suggestions included choosing or modifying one of the three proposed policies, or offering students a decision point. The council agreed on the need to obtain additional data, potentially conduct a survey to understand what kind of credit decisions the student population would make, and further continue the conversation.

## 6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

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*Minutes by Craig Bosman, Faculty Council Support Analyst. [cbosman@uw.edu](mailto:cbosman@uw.edu)*

**Present:**           **Faculty:** Cunningham, Holt, Janssen, Keil, Pengra, Taggart  
**Ex-Officio Reps:** Bradley, Fugate, Wensel, Williams  
**President's Designee:** Ballinger  
**Guests:** Edwards, Corbett, Wiegand, Sahr, Payne

**Absent:**           **Faculty:** Almgren, Holman, Kramer, Schaufelberger, Stroup  
**Ex-Officio:** Canter

## **FACULTY COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS**

April 15, 2011

### **POLICY FOR HANDLING ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) AND INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) CREDITS**

Current policy is to treat Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate credits as transfer credits. Incoming transfer credits are limited to 90 lower division credits and 135 total credits.

### **POTENTIAL ADVANCED PLACEMENT/INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE POLICY STATEMENTS**

#### **Version #1:**

**Credit is awarded for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate coursework, dependent on test scores, up to a maximum of 45 credits.**

#### **Version #2:**

**Credit is awarded for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate coursework, dependent on test scores, up to a maximum of 30 credits.**

#### **Version #3:**

**Credit is awarded for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate coursework, dependent on test scores. Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate credits are subject to the limit on transfer credits included in the UW credit total. Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate credits are not included in determining when to require student actions on satisfactory progress milestones for declaring a major and applying to graduate.**