

University of Washington  
Faculty Council on Academic Standards  
April 13, 2012  
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.  
Gerberding Hall 142

**Meeting Synopsis:**

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Chair's Report
- 3) Approval of the Minutes of March 30, 2012
- 4) Report of Subcommittee on Admission and Graduation
- 5) SCAP Report
  - Consent agenda (routine actions)
  - Non-routine actions
- 6) Competitive Minors
- 7) Update on Implementation of Satisfactory Progress Policy
- 8) New Academic Program Review Process
- 9) Adjournment

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**1) Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Chair John Schaufelberger.

**2) Chair's Report**

Schaufelberger provided an update on the potential discontinuation of the Course Evaluations by the Office of Educational Assessment (OEA). He informed that Gail Stygall, Chair of the Special Committee on Planning and Budgeting (SCPB) had brought the issue to SCPB earlier in the week. Brad Holt, also a member of SCPB, reported commitment to funding course evaluations would be funded for next year, however noted that discussion on the long term plans was still undetermined.

**3) Approval of the Minutes of March 30, 2012**

The minutes from the March 30 FCAS meeting were approved as modified.

**4) Report of Subcommittee on Admission and Graduation**

Susanna Cunningham gave a report from the Subcommittee on Admissions and Graduation meeting on March 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss student applications which were challenging to the Office of Admissions. Though no decision was made, these students were characterized as having good test scores, good grades, however did not perform well during their senior year. She informed that other interesting subjects discussed in the subcommittee would later be presented to FCAS.

## 5) SCAP Report

### Consent Agenda:

1. **School of Nursing** - (NURS-20120326) Revised admission and program requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

Justification: The School needs to update their catalog copy to reflect a new course that will be required, a change in credits of some existing required courses, streamline the way the requirements are listed, and revise the admissions requirements for the Accelerated BSN for post-grads.

SCAP Action Taken: 04/06/2012 – Approve and forward to FCAS

### **The Consent Agenda was approved.**

### Non-routine Items:

1. **Business School** - (BA-20120209) New option in Operations and Supply Chain Management within the Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration degree.

Justification: Operations and Supply Chain Management is area of growing demand for business majors to have in the workforce. The new option will provide students with the necessary knowledge and skills to meet this demand.

SCAP Action Taken: 02/17/2012 – Approve pending justification of 2.5 cumulative GPA requirements.

SCAP Action Taken: 04/06/2012 – Post Tri-Campus Review (no comments). Approve and forward to FCAS.

### **There was a motion for approval. The Motion Carried.**

2. **Earth and Space Sciences** - (ESS-20120126) New option in Geology within the Bachelor of Science degree in Earth and Space Sciences; new continuation policy; revised program requirements for the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in Earth and Space Sciences.

Justification: Currently students can pursue the standard Earth and Space Sciences major (unofficially called the standard option) or complete an option in either Environmental Earth Sciences or Biology. The department would like to follow the Physics model and require students to complete an option by taking the unofficial "standard option" and getting it approved an official Geology option. Students wanting to pursue state licensing need to have GEOLOGY on their transcript. In addition they would like a note added in the Student Outcomes and Opportunities section alerting students to the courses required to meet the State Licensing Endorsement. Finally the department wants to establish clear criteria for satisfactory progress by implementing an approved Continuation Policy.

SCAP Action Taken: 02/17/2012 – Approve and forward to FCAS.

SCAP Action Taken: 04/06/2012 – Post Tri-Campus Review (I replied to comments). Approve and forward to FCAS.

### **There was a motion for approval. The Motion Carried.**

## 6) Competitive Minors

Brad Holt briefed Council members on the topic of competitive minors from SCAP meetings. He noted that the past policy had been to not allow competitive minors. As the Bothell and Tacoma campuses have implemented competitive minors, questions arise whether this should be acceptable at the Seattle campus. Some schools, such as Global Health have already expressed interest in making their minors competitive. Council members' considerations were requested on this matter.

Discussion followed on the background of minors, which were established in 1994. Council members debated the impact of a minor on the competitive advantage of students applying for a graduate or doctorate degree. Minors were considered more important for employment opportunities than towards graduate school, and it was emphasized that though minors are transcriptable, they are not required for graduation. Double-majors have been reported to be beneficial for students in some cases. Council members were curious if competitive minors at Bothell and Tacoma serve to increase the value of the minor.

The Council considered where the burden of tracking progress would fall should minors be competitive, shifting from within the Office of the Registrar to counselors within departments. Departments did not want the responsibility of tracking minors initially, and delegated this role to the Registrar. Some academic units exist that have taken more ownership of minors, but responsibilities are tasked mostly to advisors. If a minor is competitive, the question was raised if the school has an obligation to track students' progress and guarantee placement in required courses? As continuation policies are not currently required for minors, concerns were expressed on how to manage class sizes in popular courses with competitive minors. Offering competitive minors was noted to differ from the rationale for and current purpose of minors, and increase departmental responsibility.

Two different policy decisions could be taken:

- a) Not allow competitive minors, and ascertain what can be done in terms of already competitive minors;
- b) Emphasize that most minors should remain open, but if restricting admissions to a minor, have conditions apply (requiring a continuation policy, priority admission, guaranteed completion, etc.).

The Council expressed that should a student enter into a competitive minor, the department would have a duty to guarantee completion and provide priority admission in courses. It was also suggested to "generally discourage" competitive minors, and require justification if seeking restrictions on minors. Members considered that programs may want to use competitive minors in order to ensure student access to courses. Holt will draft language on this, and provide updates to the Council.

### **7) Update on Implementation of Satisfactory Progress Policy**

Deborah Wiegand gave an update on the Satisfactory Progress Policy. April 19<sup>th</sup> is the last meeting of the implementation group for this policy, after which a full report will be provided to FCAS, and request FCAS action. Council members were provided the policy language which was approved in January and guidelines for granting exceptions. These guidelines restate the policy and serve to assist staff, colleges and departments with implementation of the new policy.

Wiegand clarified that the Satisfactory Progress Policy does not actually change policy as it currently exists. Instead this policy delays the moment that the credit limit enters into effect for students, allowing students an appropriate number of quarters at the University prior to this limit. The policy on transfer students has been changed, as it was problematic to develop remaining time at UW by calculating quarters and credits of coursework taken prior to entry of transfer students. Instead, class levels will be projected as a freshman, sophomore, junior or senior status. Concerns of this "projecting"

of class were raised on potential impacts on AP students, but such students are not considered transfers and enter as freshmen. Transfer students projected as juniors and seniors will receive an allowance of 6 quarters at UW, sophomores would receive 9 quarters, and those with less than 1 year projected in community college would be given 12 quarters. Engineering was noted to receive transfer students with enough experience that they would only have a remaining 6 quarters. This was noted to be problematic as the program requires 7 quarters of study at the University of Washington. Wiegand noted that she would investigate this case and determine if there are other departments which would also be affected.

Wiegand was asked how many undergraduate students are part-time at UW, which was uncertain. Should this number be sizeable, it was recommended to include this category within the policy. Mel Wensel informed that she had already been discussing the Satisfactory Progress Policy with students. She considered this model to be “kinder” and “gentler” to students, and that student feedback indicated that this policy was clear to them. Wiegand explained that the maximum of transfer credits accepted at the UW was noted to be 135, and the minimum time allotted for transfer students to study at UW is 6 quarters. Concerns were also expressed that students seeking double majors may be penalized by such a policy. Wiegand differentiated the wording on concurrent and double degrees, and was suggested to seek feedback from advisors on such language to accommodate for those seeking double degrees.

The goal of this policy is to clarify policy to students prior to beginning their studies at the University of Washington. The benefits are that this policy is not within the Scholastic Regulations, and thus further revisions would not require pursuing legislation to change the policy within the Faculty Senate. Concerns were raised on language within the College Handbook which currently states “college advisors may grant extensions beyond 30 credits.” The Satisfactory Progress Policy could cause inconsistency in policies, or be overridden by the College Handbook language. There was a suggestion to create Class B Legislation to change the College Handbook policy and ensure consistency between the College Handbook and this policy; however such legislation could only be brought forth next year.

#### **8) New Academic Program Review Process**

Deborah Wiegand informed that the Washington State Legislature has created the Student Achievement Council to replace part of the Higher Education Council (HEC) board. This entity does not have authority to approve new programs at state institutions. Wiegand thought that the FCAS process will probably continue much as it currently is. Changes may be what information is required in planning such programs, which may be changed internally. Robert Corbett is organizing a meeting between all Washington State baccalaureate programs to determine an approach to meet the requirement for coordination and communication across such institutions.

Reporting will continue, but the expectation is for communication and coordination with other institutions. Wiegand provided a scenario of two institutions created similar programs, which would require coordination. Questions arose on how conflicts would be resolved between competing programs, or if schools simply need to notify one another without possibility to critique. Though a dispute resolution mechanism was established within the legislation creating the Student Achievement Council, there is a lack of clarity in terms of how the process will work.

## 9) Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m. by Chair Schaufelberger.

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Minutes by Jay Freistadt, Faculty Council Support Analyst. [jayf@u.washington.edu](mailto:jayf@u.washington.edu)

**Present:**       **Faculty:** Schaufelberger (Chair), Holt, Almgren, Cunningham, Pengra, Taggart  
                  **President's Designee:** Ballinger  
                  **Ex-Officio Reps:** Williams, Wensel, Fugate  
                  **Guests:** Kollet, Sahr, Edwards, Corbett, Wiegand

**Absent:**       **Faculty:** Holman, Stroup, Janssen, Keil, Kramer  
                  **Ex-Officio Reps:** Smith