

**Faculty Council on Academic Standards**  
2011-2012 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 (Faculty Code and Governance, 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 2011-2012 academic year.

### **Non-Routine Actions**

In addition to the normal flow of business, FCAS handled five other major issues.

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities' accreditation standards require language to address what happens to students when they are part of a program selected for elimination. While the Registrar's office had adopted a policy, there was no written version in any university publication. To resolve the issue, FCAS adopted a Policy on Discontinued or Obsolete Degree Programs. The policy allows students enrolled in a program selected for elimination the right to complete their degree program providing that they maintain continual matriculated status.

To establish an appeal process for appellate committee decisions, FCAS revised its Policy Pertaining to Admission of Student Athletes to enable such appeals to be decided by the Subcommittee on Admission and Graduation.

To provide guidance to academic units and their advisers, FCAS adopted a Policy on Satisfactory Progress, which allows students to earn as many credits as they wish if they graduate within 12 quarters if they enter as freshman or 6 quarters if they enter as a transfer student. Students not completing their degree requirements within these timeframes will be allowed to continue to enroll through the quarter in which they reach 30 credits beyond the number of credits required for their degree. After reaching this limit, they will no longer be permitted to register as continuing UW students in the regular academic year.

To provide guidance to academic units, FCAS revised its Policy on Options v. Minors to specify that departments may limit the number of options in which a student may enroll and that each option must be distinct.

In response to several inquiries regarding competitive minors, FCAS adopted a Policy on Competitive Minors that encourages open minors and establishes policies for competitive minors. A unit offering a competitive minor needs to provide an adviser for students admitted to the minor, needs a continuation policy for the minor, and must provide preferential access to courses need by students to enable them to complete the minor in a timely manner.

### **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 42 routine revisions to major and minor requirements. The Council also approved 23 non-routine revisions in Art; Atmospheric Sciences; Bioengineering; Business; Computer Science and Engineering; Earth and Space Science; Education, Learning and Society; Forest Resources; Mathematics; Mechanical Engineering; and Public Health.

### **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 reviewed the UW fine arts admission requirement. The subcommittee decided to retain the admission requirement, but to rely on a sending high school's determination that the course met the requirement. The Subcommittee met with ASUW representatives to discuss the ASUW resolution regarding adopting a diversity graduation requirement. This matter has been deferred until Academic Year 2012-2013 when a special joint student/faculty committee will be appointed by the FCAS Chair.

### **Council and Subcommittee Membership**

**Council Members for 2011-2012 Academic Year:** Gunnar Almgren, Social Work; Susanna Cunningham, Biobehavioral Nursing & Health Systems; Nicholas Holman, Naval Science; Brad Holt, Chemical Engineering; Donald Janssen, Civil Engineering; Richard Keil, Oceanography; Patricia Kramer, Anthropology; David Pengra, Physics; John Schaufelberger (Chair), Construction Management; Sarah Stroup, Classics; and Jennifer Taggart, Mathematics

**Presidential Designee:** Philip Ballinger, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment

**Ex-Officio Representatives:** Cynthia Fugate, ALUW; Evan Smith, ASUW; Mel Wensel, UAAC; and Carlos Williams, PSO

**Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs:** Robert Corbett, Virjean Edwards, Nicholas Holman, Brad Holt (Chair), Patricia Kramer, Jennifer Payne (Recorder), David Sayrs, John Schaufelberger, Evan Smith, Jennifer Taggart, Mel Wensel, and Matt Winslow

**Subcommittee on Admissions and Graduation:** Philip Ballinger, Susanna Cunningham (Chair), Cynthia Fugate, Don Janssen, Richard Keil, Laura Newell, Sarah Stroup, and Deborah Wiegand

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

**Recorder:** Jay Freistadt