

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Academic Standards
October 12, 2012, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.
Gerberding Hall 142

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Call to Order
 2. Review of the Minutes from September 28, 2012
 3. SCAP Report
 - a. Consent agenda (routine actions)
 - b. Non-routine actions
 - c. Differential Admissions Policies between Early and Regular Admissions
 4. Chair's Report
 - a. Student Diversity Requirement Initiative
 - b. Online Degree Completion Initiative
 5. New Business
 6. Adjourn
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1) Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m. by Chair George Dillon.

2) Review of the Minutes from September 28, 2012

Minutes from the September 28 meeting were approved as revised.

3) SCAP Report

Brad Holt briefly described the process for approval of the Consent Agenda items.

- a. Consent agenda (routine actions)

1. **American Indian Studies** - ([AIS-20120517](#)) Revised program requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree in American Indian Studies.

Background: The department wants to eliminate the required senior project, will remain optional, and replace the credits with an additional 5 credits of upper division electives.

SCAP Action Taken: 10/05/2012 - Approve and forward to FCAS.

2. **Anthropology** - ([ANTH-20120816](#)) Revised program requirements for the option in Medical Anthropology and Global Health within the Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology.

Background: The option currently includes ANTH 274 as an approved introductory course; however the course is being renumbered to ANTH 373 and should be moved to an approved upper division elective instead.

SCAP Action Taken: 10/05/2012 - Approve and forward to FCAS.

3. Dance - (DANCE-20120606) Revised admission requirements for the Dance Studies option within the Bachelor of Arts degree in Dance.

Background: The Dance program would like to require students applying for the Dance Studies option go through a competitive admissions process to include an application and presentation of a portfolio of DANCE 250 assignments to make sure they are applying for the correct option; Creative Studies option remains minimum requirements admissions.

SCAP Action Taken: 10/05/2012 - Approve and forward to FCAS.

4. Dance - (DANCE-20120607) Revised program requirements for the Dance Studies option within the Bachelor of Arts degree in Dance.

Background: The Dance program would like to eliminate the Senior Seminar (DANCE 480) as a requirement and move it to an approved elective; students would be required to make up the 3 credits with additional interdisciplinary coursework in support of their research project.

SCAP Action Taken: 10/05/2012 - Approve and forward to FCAS.

5. Dance - (DANCE-20120611) Revised program requirements for the Creative Studies option within the Bachelor of Arts degree in Dance.

Background: The Dance program would like to add 3 credits of required Dance Composition to the Creative Studies option.

SCAP Action Taken: 10/05/2012 - Approve and forward to FCAS.

6. Mathematics (ACMS) - (ACMS-20120613A) Revised program requirements for the Discrete Math and Algorithms option within the Bachelor of Science degree in Applied and Computational Mathematical Sciences.

Background: The ACMS Steering Committee has voted to allow students to take one of three AMATH courses (481, 482, and 483) to count towards the 9 credits of approved math electives.

SCAP Action Taken: 10/05/2012 - Approve and forward to FCAS.

7. Mathematics (ACMS) - (ACMS-20120613B) Revised program requirements for the Scientific Computing and Numerical Analysis within the Bachelor of Science degree in Applied and Computational Mathematical Sciences.

Background: The ACMS Steering Committee has voted to allow students to take two of three AMATH courses (481, 482, and 483) to count towards the 9 credits of approved math and physics electives.

SCAP Action Taken: 10/05/2012 - Approve and forward to FCAS.

8. Aeronautics and Astronautics - (AA-20120423) Revised admission and program requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Aeronautics and Astronautics degree.

Background: The department needs to revise the changes approved last spring to allow HCDE 231 to be removed from admission and graduation requirements. They want to remove the language about College of Engineering

approved writing courses to approved writing courses. They are allow requesting Direct Freshman Admissions be added and the Advanced admission language be removed as it is no longer supported by the College. Finally they are making some clarification edits throughout the admission and program requirements that have been the subject of confusion in the past.

SCAP Action Taken: 10/05/2012 - Approve and forward to FCAS.

9. **Climate Science** - ([CENV-20120514](#)) Revised program requirements for the minor in Climate Science.

Background: The Climate Science minor faculty are updating their list of approved electives and renaming one list of electives.

SCAP Action Taken: 10/05/2012 - Approve and forward to FCAS.

10. **Oceanography** - ([OCEAN-20120919](#)) Revised program requirements for the Bachelor of Science in degree in Oceanography.

Background: The department is spreading out their Senior Thesis sequence from two courses to three courses, creating a new course and distributing the credits among them. No change in overall credits to degree.

SCAP Action Taken: 10/05/2012 - Approve and forward to FCAS.

11. **Bioengineering** - ([BIOEN-20120405](#)) Revised admission requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Bioengineering degree.

Background: The department wants to change their admissions language to reflect that they now take 35% of their incoming class via Direct Freshman Admissions.

SCAP Action Taken: 10/05/2012 - Approve and forward to FCAS.

There was a motion to Approve all Consent Agenda Items. The Motion Carried.

b. Non-routine actions

Holt informed of three non-routine items discussed in SCAP; only one was ready to be brought to FCAS.

1. **Nutritional Sciences** - ([NUTR-20120709](#)) New minor in Nutritional Sciences.

Background: The department has been told by the Office of Undergraduate Education that there is a high student interest in a nutrition and food minor. The minor will allow the UW to be one of the first higher education institutions in the country to feature coursework in food studies at the undergraduate level, and will complement the consolidation in nutrition education in that is planned at WSU. It will also provide the necessary discipline-specific courses to complement the offering in the School of Public Health and across the campus.

SCAP Action Taken: 10/05/2012 - PENDING. Need justification of the 2.0 in each elective course. Also make minor editorial change making the 60% the actual number of credits.

These changes for the Nutritional Science minor were approved by SCAP following clarification of a 2.0 GPA within the minor itself and editorial comments.

There was a motion for approval. The Motion Carried.

c. Differential Admissions Policies between Early and Regular Admissions

In SCAP, the topic arose of programs with differing requirements for early and regular admission, particularly within competitive majors. Questions arose if freshmen admitted to such departments would be dropped from these programs if they did not meet standards for admission as juniors once they become juniors, which are often more rigorous. One suggestion was to provisionally admit freshmen, if they meet the same requirements as those for regular junior admissions. This approach would require articulating the number of opportunities such students would be given to meet requirements.

Discussion followed on the rationale for direct freshmen admissions, noting benefits and risks for students and schools, and the need for transparency on such policies for students. SCAP opposed differential admissions for programs at different stages, stressing the need of a standardized satisfactory progress. Council members emphasized that Departments should consider advantages and risks of direct freshmen admissions. To assure that departments consider the risk of early admissions, Holt suggested adoption of the following language as policy regarding differential requirements at freshman and regular admissions:

“Students who are admitted early into a department are not required to meet admissions standards for students admitted later. Once a student is admitted, they are only required to satisfy the continuation policy for the department.” This was noted to be the current practiced policy, though unofficial.

There was a motion to approve this as FCAS Policy. The Motion Carried (Attached as Appendix A).

4) Chair’s Report

a. Student Diversity Requirement Initiative

Dillon described composition of the Task Force between FCAS and FCMA to discuss the proposed Student Diversity Requirement. Its purpose is to assist the students in drafting of a policy which will have a better chance of being passed by FCAS to the general faculty to vote on. Sarah Stroup offered to participate on the Task Force, as she served on the Subcommittee on Admissions and Graduation.

Dillon is researching the Diversity Minor and past proposed requirements to better understand where concerns had existed in the past. This proposal as written would require all students to take five-credits, taken at UW, or approved courses transferred from another institution or high school, which would fall under the curricula of the Diversity minor. Discussion followed on recent adoption of similar requirements by many peer institutions, the implications of such a requirement due to Activity Based Budgeting (ABB), and the question of how diversity is defined. Another question posed was what the educational objective of such a requirement would be for underrepresented and international students.

The Department of Anthropology had offered to help students with developing a broader definition, to gain more support. The Task Force will begin conversations next week.

b. Online Degree Completion Initiative

Dillon attended a meeting regarding the Online Degree Completion Initiative. In this meeting, Interim Dean of Arts & Science Robert Stacey described the process for identifying the educational objectives for this degree, and expressed flexibility in the timeline for rolling out this initiative. Discussion was still open regarding the number of online courses required to be taken by candidates to assess their “fit,” and when funding lines would be provided to departments for faculty to develop such courses. The projection of initial students enrolled seems to have decreased.

The suggestion was made for UW Educational Outreach to propose Class B Legislation to distinguish the rights of these students, if they are to be blocked from taking regular classes, prior to developing curricula. Daytime students would be allowed to take these online courses, without additional cost. The proposed method of proctoring tests for Degree Completion students was considered a good idea to ensure academic rigor.

5) New Business

Don Janssen requested for the Council to investigate potential inflation of credits, as there is concern that departments are using or may use this to increase their funds due to ABB. He suggested SCAP develop means to identify credit inflation in courses, such watching for departments which had only taught 3-4 credit courses in the past and are requesting for courses to be increased to 5 credits. The Council considered mechanisms to identify departments which may be engaging in such activity. One suggested indicator is the Challenge Engagement Indicator (CEI) tracked by the Office of Educational Assessment (OEA), or hours spent per credit. Deborah Wiegand spoke with Nana Lowell, head of OEA, who is looking into how much data is available. Other methods could be for the Curriculum Committee to compare hours per credit for courses over time, through comparing past and proposed syllabi. Other suggestions were to investigate by class size, or courses which decreased the writing requirements.

6) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m. by Chair Dillon.

Minutes by Jay Freistadt, Faculty Council Support Analyst. jayf@u.washington.edu

Present: **Faculty:** Dillon, Melin, Janssen, Kramer, Holt, Taggart, Stroup
 President’s Designee: Ballinger
 Ex-Officio Reps: Kutz, Anderson
 Guests: Wiegand, Corbett, Virjean Edwards

Absent: **Faculty:** Cunningham, Almgren, Pengra, Keil
 Ex-Officio Reps: Fugate, Wensel

Faculty Council on Academic Standards (FCAS) Policy on Differential Admissions Policies

In light of academic units with different admissions policies for early admissions and “regular” admissions, the following policy standards are applicable:

Students who are admitted early into a department are not required to meet admissions standards for students admitted later. Once a student is admitted, they are only required to satisfy the continuation policy for the department.

Adopted by the Faculty Council on Academic Standards on October 12, 2012.