

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Academic Standards
September 28, 2012
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.
Gerberding Hall 142

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Call to Order
 2. Welcome / Introductions
 3. Chair's Report
 - a. Summary of Last Year's Annual Report
 - b. Preview of Issues for this Year
 4. Subcommittee Assignments
 5. Adjourn
-

1) Call to Order

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

2) Welcome / Introductions

George Dillon introduced himself as a former past chair of FCAS, stepping in for John Schaufelberger who is serving as interim Dean for the School of Built Environments.

3) Chair's Report

- a. Summary of Last Year's Annual Report

Dillon described the Council's annual report¹, and there was no need to approve the minutes from the May 26th FCAS meeting as it was electronically approved.

- b. Preview of Issues for this Year

- I. ASUW Diversity Resolution

The ASUW Diversity Resolution last year was sent to the Subcommittee on Admission and Graduation for faculty feedback. A Task Force has been formed to address faculty concerns while keeping principles which the student coalition deem essential. Task Force membership will be divided between ASUW representatives, students proposing the requirement, members of the Faculty Council on Multicultural Affairs and FCAS. When the Task Force has drafted a responsive piece of legislation, it will be returned to the Subcommittee on Admissions and Graduation. Council members stressed the importance of including faculty diverse perspectives on the Task Force, both in favor and critical, to improve the possibility of Class B Legislation passing FCAS and the Faculty Senate. George Dillon will serve on this Task Force, and two additional FCAS members are being sought.

- II. Proposed Humanities Major from the College of Arts and Sciences

Mel Wensel, representing the Undergraduate Academic Advising Council, informed that proposed modules are being developed, and the possibility for common core courses between modules as recommended by FCAS is being investigated. A more in-depth proposal will be available at the end of the quarter.

¹Available here: http://www.washington.edu/faculty/committees/fcas/fcas_minutes/fcas_annrept1112.pdf

III. Proposed BS degree in Integrated Sciences from College of Arts and Sciences

Robert Corbett noted that the Integrated Science degree will be brought to SCAP within the next few weeks, with one concern being the lack of common courses between modules. Other concerns voiced were the balance between lower division and upper division coursework.

IV. Satisfactory Progress Policy

Last year, the Satisfactory Progress Policy was adopted by the Council. UW Bothell and Tacoma adopted the policy, standardizing credit limits between the three campuses. Policy will take effect during Winter quarter, and remaining discussion will follow on how to handle current students. Wiegand requested the Council's opinion whether the following phrase regarding Postbaccalaureate admission is sufficient to address the concern about avenues for students who want to prepare for graduate and professional schools:

“Postbaccalaureate admission is limited and therefore competitive. Students are selected for admission primarily on three factors: the need to matriculate at the Seattle campus; demonstrated academic potential in the student's intended field; and, in some cases, support from or guaranteed admission into a department with competitive admission.”

She noted that one department had expressed concerns with this policy, as their students require more than 12 quarters to prepare for graduate work. Discussion followed on why this policy identifies the UW Seattle Campus rather than at UW as a whole. Council members agreed that first priority on courses should be given to undergraduates, noting a need to limit admission and enrollment of Postbaccalaureates through policy, which was noted is not rigid with such students due to the small enrollment numbers, with near 100 for fall quarter.

Presidential Designee and Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Philip Ballinger suggested resolution through a fiscal rather than policy approach, requiring Postbaccalaureate students to cover the full cost of their program to restrict enrollment. The challenge in admission is that these students are very good students, and thus implementing restrictive policy would be difficult. If resolving this through a fiscal approach, FCAS could prompt such action, but the item would no longer be within FCAS' charge. It was cautioned to evaluate impact prior to raising tuition to not disadvantage any particular student demographic, particularly minority students. Further discussion was postponed, with a further update on the implementation of the satisfactory progress policy from Wiegand expected.

V. DL Supplement for Course Change and New Course forms

The revision of a supplemental form for Distance Learning courses in the Course Change and New Course applications, and was approved pending better definition of “Distance Learning” in SCAP.

VI. Student Effort vs. Credits Earned in courses

Concern was raised that there may incentives from Activity Based Budgeting to inflate of course credits beyond the actual student effort within these courses. Investigation needs to follow to determine if this is an issue, though there is historical evidence. The Challenge and Engagement Index (CEI) was noted to be an indicator tracked by the Office of Educational Assessment, and a report was conducted around three years ago in a joint report for FCAS and the Faculty Council on Instructional Quality. Don Janssen

offered to send along this report. It was cautioned that such assessments are self-reports and not collected from all students; thus they may not capture all the pertinent data.

VII. UW PCE Online Degree Completion Initiative

Background was provided on the UW Educational Outreach Degree Completion Initiative, which would provide online degree completion in Social Sciences for students returning after completing 2-3 years at the UW or another institution, similar to transfer students. The admissions process was noted to be a selective process, similar to the Evening Degree selection process. Dillon commented on the velocity of this initiative, and had attended a meeting in July with Brad Holt, George Dillon (Chair of FCFA), Jim Gregory (Faculty Senate Chair) and Jack Lee (Faculty Senate Vice-Chair) among others. Questions have been posed regarding this initiative, specifically the potential creation of a new class of students, the rights of such students, and the creation of a new degree. Dillon requested Council members to provide input on the initiative.

Concerns

- Admissions concerns if the sole entrance requirement were to be completed credits
- Differentiation of students similar to the proposed UW Aerospace Engineering degree in Abu Dhabi, in concerns that such students could take courses at UW
- 45 credit residency requirement
- Confusion that acceptance into the Distance Learning completion means being admitted to regular UW Courses
- Concerns on curricular plan quality: have a core of basic courses, not simply clusters of courses
- Potential use by such students of resources subsidized by daytime students, without contributing to funding of such resources
- The cost of support for such students may make the program more expensive than anticipated, additional support from departments, libraries and advising
- How such a new degree program will be centrally reviewed in the absence of the HEC Board

Questions were raised followed on whether such a program would be subsidized by central funding or infrastructure. Concerns also were expressed about the common tax required by ABB across the University which is not taken into account with this program. The question was posed if such a program would be taxed as an auxiliary unit, and if so, how much it would pay. Dillon redirected the discussion to residency requirements, which can be waived, through provisional approval from SCAP, and FCAS. Council members emphasized concerns with quality of this program, if instructors are overloaded in order to drive down costs.

Discussion followed on other aspects of the initiative. Suggestions have been made for prospective students to be required to take three distance learning courses at UW prior to admittance into this program. Council members were interested in knowing whether these courses would count towards the 90 hour program, and had different opinions on whether this would be fair. Though the initiative had begun focusing on UW students who halted their studies, the current proposal is much larger than this. A suggestion was made to revise the *Faculty Code* to update some older terms regarding Extension, and Distance Learning, and such revisions could come from FCTL.

An article in the Chronicle of Higher Education was referenced regarding online completion at the University of South Carolina, which would have a higher tuition rates than this proposed initiative and was considered to be competitive with other online schools. Curiosity was expressed how the UW could maintain quality and resources at such an inexpensive rate. This initiative could undermine the argument for tuition increases at UW, and make the public ask questions on why the completion degree is significantly less expensive than the rising undergraduate tuition rates. Also, it may open further discussion on differential tuition, which halted earlier due to concerns of potentially bankrupting the Guaranteed Education Tuition prepaid college tuition savings plan should differential tuition be pursued. Other questions were posed on how much state funding would be provided to UW in exchange for offering this initiative.

Dillon closed the discussions, noting that the proposed program will soon be evaluated by SCAP. President Michael Young wishes to formally announce this degree, but this is seen as problematic as SCAP has yet to review this degree. David Szatmary, Vice Provost of Educational Outreach is heading this initiative and is meeting with different groups to discuss the initiative.

4) Subcommittee Assignments

Subcommittees will maintain their roster from the past year.

5) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m. by Chair Dillon.

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

Present: **Faculty:** Dillon, Janssen, Almgren, Holt, Kramer, Pengra, Taggart, Melin, Keil
 President's Designee: Ballinger
 Ex-Officio Reps: Fugate, Kutz, Wensel
 Guests: Wiegand, Edwards, Corbett, Jack Lee, Sahr

Absent: **Faculty:** Stroup, Cunningham
 Ex-Officio Reps: Anderson