

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Academic Standards
October 26, 2012, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.
Gerberding Hall 142

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Call to Order
 2. Review of the Minutes from October 12th, 2012
 3. SCAP Report
 - a. Non-routine actions
 4. Chair's Report
 5. 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 October 12, 2012

Minutes from the October 12, 2012 meeting were approved as written.

3) SCAP Report

Brad Holt introduced the SCAP Report, noting no consent items to be considered.

- a. Non-routine actions

2. **School of Public Health - (SPH-20120912)** New continuation policy and revised program requirements for the both the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in Public Health.

Background: The School of Public Health would like to adopt a continuation policy for students that declare the Public Health Major as well have modify the cumulative GPA requirements to align with the continuation policy. Additionally they would also like to add a new course (BIOST 310) to the list of courses that will satisfy the statistics requirement for the major.

SCAP Action Taken: 10/19/2012 - Approve and forward to FCAS.

Motion put forward to approve, seconded. Motion passed.

Distance Learning language in Revision of Course Approval form

Deborah Wiegand had been streamlining the process for distance learning courses, to replace the supplemental form with a question on the course approval form. She had presented these changes last year to both SCAP and FCAS. SCAP chose to define distance learning by measuring the hours spent within the classroom (instructional hours) compared to additional hours outside of instruction. It offered the following definition of distance learning: "A Distance Learning course is one where the instructional hours are more than 50% distance learning."

FCAS discussed this terminology:

- In the context of “flipping the classroom,” watching the lecture online would probably serve as “homework” whereas instructional time would be in class discussion.
- Differences between UW and Washington State definitions of “distance learning”
- Teaching Assistants meet the requirements of “instructional hours” even if the “instructor of record” never is physically in class, but only virtually.

SCAP will review another draft, and provide a finalized form for FCAS to approve at its next meeting.

Proposed Bachelor of Science in Integrated Science

SCAP was cautious of the precedent of approving this new degree, as similar degrees are being proposed. Holt requested FCAS’ guidance on this matter. The process for degree approval was described, emphasizing that only a major issue during the Tri-Campus review could halt a degree from proceeding. A Council member reported a difference of perspective between faculty and administration within their unit, and requested to know whether they are acting on the Council as a representative or as an individual. Council members were noted to act as individuals.

Concerns with the proposal were as follows:

- Low number of upper division courses (300-400 levels) required, with three of the tracks for this degree with less than one year of courses above a sophomore level
- Need to better “focus” this degree, which appears similar to a collection of minors
- An increase in “integrated hours” beyond 22 hours may be beneficial, with courses potentially across other academic units
- Application for this program occurs after students take many science courses and challenges in course load, which may pose a problem should students change majors
- Whether students will be able to get their degrees in a timely fashion
- The ability of these students to conduct research at the end of their degrees
- Large overlap between two degrees, for instance a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, and Chemistry track in Integrated Science

Discussion followed on the value of this degree, which was noted to be for high school teachers, policy writers, and otherwise. As the number of upper level credits was similar to a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Chemistry rather than a Bachelor of Science, a suggestion was made to alter this proposal to a BA in Integrated Science. Deborah Wiegand informed us that this program was similar to a Natural Sciences degree in the College of Education which had existed

in the early 1990s.

When asked if FCAS would approve this proposal as a Bachelor of Science, the majority of FCAS members expressed that they would oppose such a proposal. Brad Holt offered to communicate this to the College of Arts & Sciences, which is proposing this degree.

4) Chair's Report

Freshmen class

Philip Ballinger, Assistant Vice President of Enrollment, had provided a profile of this year's incoming freshmen class to the Admissions and Graduations Subcommittee. International students make up nearly 20% of the freshmen student body, and test scores are up. Brazil and India were noted to be other regions whose numbers may grow at UW.

Student Diversity Requirement

Dillon noted two meetings regarding the Student Diversity Requirement. The first meeting was to determine the structure of Work Group meetings, which will be under the charge of the students, with FCMA and FCAS serving an advisory function. Meetings will occur bi-weekly, with two members from each FCMA and FCAS.

The second meeting was a Work Group meeting. ASUW representative Michael Kutz is the facilitator for these meetings. He thanked Sarah Stroup for her recommendations which she had provided. Work will initially focus on the learning objectives and flexibility of how the requirement can be fulfilled. Kutz hopes to bring a finalized proposal back to the Admissions and Graduation Subcommittee by early December, if possible. Dillon noted that no FCMA members had been present at the first meeting, and that significant concerns had been raised regarding the current proposal. A suggestion was made for current students to be subject to the requirement, in order to demonstrate commitment.

Online Undergraduate Degree Completion Initiative

Dillon reported on an ad hoc committee meeting regarding the Online Undergraduate Degree Completion Initiative. He noted a decrease in the number of online courses suggested as a prerequisite for prospective students, from three courses to one course. Additionally, the initial target enrollment has been decreased.

Open discussion followed on the initiative. Concerns were expressed on the branding of the program, support for students to prevent large dropout rates, the low annual tuition for the program and the impact of this program should it become the largest degree program on campus. Other questions followed on whether such students would contribute to University overhead and how to prevent the degree from being subsidized by the tuition of on-campus students. Council members cautioned against creation of different classes of faculty through restricting faculty to teach within this program, and raised questions about the potential hiring

of adjunct faculty to teach these courses. Bothell and Tacoma campuses have expressed concerns as well, as their demographics are similar to the target market of this degree. Accessibility was also considered, noting priority of former UW students for this degree, and that the degree may not be appropriate for low-income students, part of the targeted demographic for this initiative, because the program may be largely ineligible for financial aid.

Council members expressed interest in best practices within distance learning courses and similar on-line programs at other institutions. FCAS will review this program, and consider whether to provide a waiver for the residency requirement. It was suggested that the elected faculty of College of Arts & Sciences (A&S) sign off on this proposal, rather than A&S's Curriculum Committee, which is appointed but not elected. It was noted that program and policy reviews are often mandated but sometimes not carried out, one example being a charge to the Registrar's office to gather student outcomes data for DL designated courses which was part of the Class B Legislation concerning the DL designation in 2007. UW Registrar Virjean Edwards said that this information had been requested from departments and reminders sent, but as far as she knew none had been received by the Registrar's Office to date. She will look further into the matter.

5) 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 (Chair), Janssen, Kramer, Holt, Melin, Keil, Taggart, Pengra
 President's Designee: Ballinger
 Ex-Officio Reps: Fugate, Anderson, Kutz, Randall
 Guests: Robert Corbett, Grant Kollett, Virjean Edwards, Deborah Wiegand

Absent: **Faculty:** Cunningham, Stroup, Almgren
 Ex-Officio Reps: Wensel