

University of Washington  
Faculty Council on Academic Standards  
November 30, 2012, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.  
Petersen Room, Suzzallo Library

**Meeting Synopsis:**

1. Call to Order
2. Review of the Minutes from November 9, 2012
3. SCAP Report
  - a. Consent agenda (routine actions)
  - b. Non-routine actions
4. Section Level Course Information for MyPlan
5. Reports
  - a. Chair's Report
  - b. Faculty Senate November 29th meeting
  - c. Subcommittee on Admissions and Graduations
6. Adjourn

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**1) Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Chair George Dillon.

**2) Review of the Minutes from November 9, 2012**

Minutes from the November 9th meeting were approved, pending editorial rewording.

**3) SCAP Report**

- a. Consent agenda (routine actions)

The first item of the consent agenda, changes on "technical electives" within the School of Environmental and Forest Sciences was requested to be added to non-routine items for discussion. The altered consent agenda consisted of one item, as follows:

1. **School of Environmental and Forest Sciences** - ([ESRM-20121017](#)) Change name of major from Environment Science and Resource Management to Environmental Science and Terrestrial Resource Management; revised program requirements for the Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science and Terrestrial Resource Management.

Background: The School is requesting to add 'terrestrial' to the name of the major to better reflect the focus of the major (comes from Dean's office); to remove HCDE 321 as a requirement but maintain the same number of writing credits; and move from specified courses in the options to a list of approved courses to provide flexibility as course offerings change.

**SCAP Action Taken: 11/16/2012 - Approve and forward to FCAS.**

**There was a motion to approve this item. The Consent Agenda passed unanimously.**

b. Non-routine actions

1. **School of Environmental and Forest Sciences - (BSE-20121017)** Revised program requirements for the Bachelor of Science degree in Bioresource Science and Engineering.

Background: The School is changing their "technical electives" to "engineering electives" and increasing the required elective credits from 6 to 8. They are also clarifying that the Business option is an *additional* 12 credits.

SCAP Action Taken: 11/16/2012 - Approve and forward to FCAS. Check to see if the Business option is an option or a track. 11/21/2012 update: it is an option.

The question was raised whether a specific course, as writing credits in the proposal, was scheduled for elimination. Other discussion followed on how courses are designated "W" (writing intensive), and it was clarified that sections, not entire courses, are generally determined on a quarterly basis [by the instructor of the section], and students have responsibility to ensure that they satisfy such requirements by a DARS audit.

**There was a motion to approve this item. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.**

2. **Integrated Sciences - (INTSCI-20110401R)** New Bachelor of Science Arts degree in Integrated Sciences.

Background: The Integrated Sciences program has been working out the program details and administrative responsibility between the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of the Environment for the past year. They have finalized their discussions and are ready to move forward with the program approval.

SCAP Action Taken: 10/19/2012 - Approve and forward to FCAS pending change grade requirements from a minimum grade of 2.0 in each course to 1) a cumulative 2.0 GPA in each basic math and science sequence and 2) a cumulative 2.0 GPA in all courses applied to the disciplinary track. (INTSCI may ask for a cumulative 2.0 GPA in the INTSCI foundation courses, to go along with the above grade requirements). Ron Irving says that the INTSCI committee is meeting this week in anticipation of questions and will reply by Thursday at the latest.

Information questions to ask not tied to moving proposal forward at this time:

1) When will students choose a disciplinary track?

2) Has INTSCI committee discussed registration priority in courses required in the disciplinary tracks with the departments offering the courses?

SCAP Action Taken: 11/16/2012 - Please read response at end of 1503 document. Approve and forward to FCAS as a Bachelor of Arts degree.

FCAS recommended that Arts & Sciences either add more concentrated upper level credits for approval as a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree or be changed to a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree. Arts & Sciences responded that while they were unhappy that this was required, they would not make changes to the curricula, and would accept this to be approved as a Bachelor of Arts degree. SCAP recommends FCAS approve this as a BA, which will then go to Tri-Campus Review, before returning to FCAS and SCAP for final approval.

The Council deliberated the differences between a BS and BA degrees. There are no official guidelines on this differentiation, though depth compared to broadness is generally the determinant and BS degrees generally have more upper division credits than BA degrees. Discussion followed on perceived differences in marketability between these two degrees, noting that students may perceive BS degrees to be more marketable within science fields. The question was raised if such designation between BA and BS degrees is more about how it is intended to be marketed. Emphasis was put on the fact that this

degree is hoped for to train science teachers for high school, and thus is broad. It was suggested that this program could work with the UW Pipeline project to give such students experience working in the field, though the degree could also serve other vocations.

The question was raised on potential impacts of this program on students seeking post-baccalaureates, similar to pre-Medicine or pre-Engineering students, as it would only be 27 credits beyond a science major undergraduate. Other discussion was whether such students would be part of a departmental community, which doesn't exist for such an interdisciplinary program, and on advising.

Other questions followed on the subject of assessment of the program, as this is a non-departmental program. It was unclear of who would conduct such an assessment, and FCAS could request for Arts & Sciences to clarify how assessments would be conducted, and by whom. It was suggested that FCAS take the charge of assessments unless an alternative is proposed for the first five years of the program, perhaps through an ad-hoc committee. Another suggestion was to form criteria for reviewing "orphan" programs at a joint committee between FCTL and FCAS. Dillon will reach out to FCTL to discuss such a committee. Don Janssen offered to provide notes from FCIQ, which conducted similar reviews in the past.

**There was a Motion to approve the Bachelor of Arts in Integrated Sciences, and request an ongoing proposal from Arts & Sciences for external review. This was approved, with two no votes.**

3. **School of Music** - ([MUSIC-20120426](#)) Convert Bachelor of Arts degree in Individualized Studies to a Bachelor of Arts degree in Ethnomusicology; new admissions requirements.

Background: The School of Music would like to move the Ethnomusicology program under their administrative control so the students can benefit from the School's climate, culture, and resources.

SCAP Action Taken: 10/05/2012 - PENDING. Need justification and clarification on the following:

- a. Why a 2.5 cumulative and a 2.0 in each course?
- b. If admissions are competitive, when can students apply? Anytime, by a specific date, 2x a year?
- c. Remove A&S general education requirements per approved catalog editing.

SCAP Action Taken: 11/16/2012 - Please read response at end of 1503 document. Pending. SCAP will not approve 2.5 cumulative GPA and wants a justification for the 2.0 in each music course - needs a continuation policy.

11/21/2012 Update: The Ethnomusicology faculty have voted to use a minimum cumulative 2.00 GPA for graduation requirements rather than a 2.0 in each course.

**Motion to be approved. The Motion was approved unanimously.**

Holt noted that Community and Environmental Planning has not responded to SCAP's recommendation to lower the GPA requirements.

#### **4) Section Level Course Information for MyPlan**

Deborah Wiegand, Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Academic Affairs, had requested the Council's assistance in implementing section-level course information on MyPlan. The intention is for this tool to allow students to plan for all their 12 quarters at the University, audit their plan to ensure that all requirements are met. In the future, students will be able to register through MyPlan. Currently primary

information from the Course Catalog is visible on MyPlan and Wiegand requested faculty feedback on what information to make available to students for section-level course planning. A preliminary list of items to be included was provided, and an overview followed on course section differences.

It was unclear how section level will be made visible to students. Students can see which quarters courses are offered, and when last offered, if not currently. Wiegand noted the possibility of much better data in the future, as departments often have a year-long schedule which isn't currently available. MyPlan also allows students to put "placeholder" courses in their plan, should they be unsure which courses will be available during that quarter.

The Council considered potential functionality to have current ratings for professors from course evaluations, and opposition to use of the unofficial "Rate My Professor" website. It was suggested that course evaluation content be made available to students. Debate followed on what evaluation information should remain solely for faculty use, and limitations of funding within the Office of Educational Assessment to perform such additional duties. Support was expressed for an official UW online rating system for professors; however OEA does not have the funds to perform such activities, and another disadvantage is the low response rate for online course evaluations.

The way that data is provided to MyPlan was described, using "current data structures." It was suggested to use historical information from past course sections, such as instructor course descriptions. Concerns were expressed on the possible inadvertent dissemination of solution keys for problem sets, which could be downloaded by future students. Though access can be limited to current course participants, it was suggested that a warning be provided to faculty for content which may be publicly visible, and to flag courses taught in the past and to remind professors to update the course or remove the content. Another important element is to allow for updates of courses expectations, such as learning objectives.

MyPlan will include courses suggested by advisors to satisfy requirements. Concern was expressed that this may impact the demand of courses, and impact funding under Activity Based Budgeting (ABB). Wiegand noted that this was simply meant to be a qualifier to identify courses which meet particular requirements, filtering by prerequisites. A suggestion was made to require students to use filters to identify such courses on their own rather than making this an automated search tool.

## **5) Reports**

### **a. Chair's Report**

Dillon requested an update on the activities around the Student Diversity Requirement. This would modify the Individuals and Society and Visual, Literary and Performing Arts requirements to require that one of these courses prepare students to work well in varied working environments, speak to diverse issues, relate across cultures/backgrounds and be good citizens. Neither George Dillon nor FCMA Chair Angela Ginorio could attend past meetings.

Sarah Stroup had attended a meeting which consisted of her and five students, but almost no attendance from FCMA as had been agreed. She described two suggestions she had given. One was to make the proposal as flexible as possible, and appeal to programs in the "exact sciences." She also suggested making study abroad courses to applicable for this requirement; the students expressed resistance to this idea. Stroup considered the current proposal to be too restrictive to be passed by

FCAS. ASUW Representative Michael Kutz thanked Stroup for her help. He believed students would be in favor of using the two-page template for formatting provided, inclusion of a course list, and potential rewording of the requirement. Also considered were potential waivers for international students, veterans serving overseas, or first nations students.

A new proposal was requested to be readied for FCMA and FCAS by January 23rd. Next steps would be reviewed at the FCAS Subcommittee for Graduation and Admissions. Dillon noted that Ginorio was not content with the revisions suggested to the current proposal.

b. Faculty Senate November 29th meeting

During the November 29th Faculty Senate meeting, discussion was described on the proposed Online Social Sciences degree. There is a possibility for FCAS to review the proposed degree by the end of the 2012-2013 academic year, however there is still much uncertainty on the details for this program.

Additionally, a Class C Resolution passed, emphasizing need to promote equity and tenure track faculty.

c. Subcommittee on Admissions and Graduations

Don Janssen informed of a proposal to remove “intermediate algebra proficiency” from the Direct Transfer Agreement, a statewide policy to transfer credit between Community Colleges and Universities in Washington State. The committee decided that there was no convincing reason to change UW’s admissions requirements, as it was important that entering students have this background in mathematics.

A separate issue has arisen regarding College Level Examination Program (CLEP) testing, when to allow a student with a minimum test score to be exempt from taking a course, similar to Advanced Placement tests. It was decided to delegate such decisions to departments. If enough departments wish to allow this, restrictions would need to be placed on when such tests could occur, to not serve as a workaround after a student were to fail a course at UW, then take a test to be exempt from the course.

## 6) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m. by Chair Dillon.

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

**Present:**           **Faculty:** Dillon (Chair), Janssen, Holt, Keil, Taggart, Melin, Stroup, Pengra, Kramer  
**Ex-Officio Reps:** Fugate, Kutz, Anderson  
**Guests:** Corbett, Sahr, Edwards

**Absent:**           **Faculty:** Almgren, Cunningham  
**President’s Designee:** Ballinger  
**Ex-Officio Reps:** Wensel, Randall