

University of Washington  
Faculty Council on Academic Standards  
January 11, 2013, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.  
Gerberding 142

**Meeting Synopsis:**

1. Call to Order
  2. Review of the Minutes from November 30, 2012
  3. SCAP Report
    - a. Consent agenda (routine actions)
    - b. Non-routine actions
  4. Reports
    - a. Student Diversity Requirement
    - b. Online Undergraduate Degree Completion Update
  5. Adjourn
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**1) Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m. by Chair George Dillon.

**2) Review of the Minutes from November 30, 2012**

Minutes from the November 30th meeting were approved, pending revised language on the language addressing the potential removal of “advanced algebra proficiency” in the Direct Transfer Agreement.

**3) SCAP Report**

- a. Consent agenda (routine actions)

Two Department of Economics proposals were added to non-routine items.

1. **Astronomy** - ([ASTR-20121217](#)) New admission requirements for the Bachelor of Science degree in Astronomy.

Background: The Astronomy department wants to require that students earn a minimum cumulative 2.00 GPA in PHYS 121, PHYS 122, and PHYS 123 prior to declaring the major. Their data shows that 50% of students who declare the Astronomy major prior to taking any physics courses dropped the major after their first physics class. They also have a large number of pre-engineering or competitive science majors applicants who declare Astronomy as a place holder. They would like to reduce the number of unprepared and place holder applicants so they can focus their attention on the prepared and interested students.

**SCAP Action Taken:** 12/07/2012 - Approve and forward to FCAS.

2. **Biology** - ([BIOL-20121119](#)) Revise program requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree and the Bachelor of Science degree in Biology.

Background: The Biology department would like to add the newly approved BOST 310 as an approved Statistics course.

**SCAP Action Taken:** 12/07/2012 - Approve and forward to FCAS.

3. **Landscape Architecture** - ([LARCH-20121128](#)) Revised admission requirements for the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree.

Background: The Landscape Architecture department wants to change the date to submit applications to the first day of spring quarter.

SCAP Action Taken: 12/07/2012 - Approve and forward to FCAS.

4. **Chemical Engineering** - ([CHEME-20121030](#)) Revised admissions, program, and continuation policy requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering degree; and revised program requirements for the option in Nanoscience and Molecular Engineering within the Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering degree.

Background: The Chemical Engineering department is asking to update their continuation policy to reflect changes in core courses; update the proportion of students admitted through direct freshman and early admissions; replace writing course HCDE 33 with CHEM E 436 and CHEM E 437; and update courses for the degree and the option to focus on molecular engineering.

SCAP Action Taken: 12/07/2012 - Approve and forward to FCAS.

**There was a motion to approve these four items. The consent agenda carried.**

b. Non-routine actions

1. **Economics** - ([ECON-20121127A](#) and [ECON-20121127B](#)) Revised admission requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree and the Bachelor of Science degree in Economics.

Background: The Economics department would like to add a reading comprehension, critical thinking and writing assessment essay to their competitive admissions process.

SCAP Action Taken: 12/07/2012 - SCAP would like a report of how the new writing assessment works out.

Council members debated a requirement of “a reading comprehension, critical thinking and writing assignment essay,” considered by the Economics Department to add to its competitive admissions process. SCAP was interested in accompanying this requirement, which is rare, with only the Business School having a similar requirement, the WSA. Such tests are expensive, and though this test will evaluate reading, thinking and writing skills, only the writing section will be analyzed. Students would be charged a fee for this test, which is half of the cost of the test at the Business School.

Particular concerns were whether a) this test would be asking students something already addressed within admissions requirements, b) whether this was aimed at transferring or freshmen international students. It was suggested that this could become an issue if departments began adding such requirements, rather than addressing this through admissions policies. SCAP has tended to allow competitive majors the option to dictate policy on their admissions, as these assist with schools to determine amongst candidates, not reduce the pool of applicants. Other writing-heavy programs, such as creative writing, do not have such rigorous requirements.

Council members discussed test scores of international students, noting that international students may actually score higher on writing tests (SAT) than domestic students. Discussion followed on how such students who do not have writing skills are entering the University. Questions were posed on demographics at the Business School, before and after adoption of the writing exam. It was uncertain whether allowing such tests would be aligned with the University’s values.

As the Business School had passed a similar policy, which would have gone through FCAS, this context would be important to understand. Were this proposal approved, it was suggested that FCAS discuss the development and grading of this exam with John Webster, and the results be reported to FCAS for the next two years. Important numbers to monitor would be the number of students admitted, and whether demographics are shifting. This policy could be revoked through Class B Legislation if the impacts are concerning. Another suggestion was to not accept such requests from non-competitive majors in the future. Another idea was to tie writing requirements to particular writing course credits, however it was cautioned that students can transfer such credits from other institutions.

A proposal was made to hold off on a decision, and invite members from the Business School and Economics to discuss the past and current proposals. Should FCAS not approve this request, worries were expressed of the potential for “backdoor” methods to informally enact such policy.

### **Invite Business School and Economics to discuss their writing examinations at FCAS’ next meeting.**

#### **2. Economics - (ECON-20121128)** Revised program requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics.

Background: The Economics department would like to add ECON 382 to the list of required ECON courses for the Bachelor of Arts degree increasing the major by 5 credits.

SCAP Action Taken: 12/07/2012 - Pending.

SCAP had some questions about the programs changes requested for the BA and the new writing assessment. They want to know the following:

- 1) Do you have a continuation policy in place for your major (specifically to address the minimum grade of a 2.0 in ECON 300 and 301)?
- 2) Is there a specific sequence for courses in the major? If not, how do you ensure that students would take ECON 382 early on as it isn't a prerequisite for any other course?
- 3) Why do they need a minimum grade of 2.0 in ECON 382 – the minimum grade in 300 and 301 is grandfathered and as 382 isn't a prerequisite for any other course they feel it should be listed with the required courses in item 1 of the major requirements.
- 4) They would also like to see 382 either be a prerequisite for 482 or make the major requirement 382 or 482.

SCAP is waiting for Economics to respond to questions for these proposed revisions. No action was necessary.

#### **3. 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.

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.

SCAP Action Taken: 12/07/2012 - Pending review of proposed external program assessment plan. Approve and post to Tri-Campus. FCAS wants a copy of the proposed 5 year review once it is complete.

The proposed Integrated Sciences degree was sent to Tri-Campus Review. FCAS requested a proposal for the evaluation of the degree, which is complicated by the fact that this is an interdisciplinary degree. Suggestions were made that a review committee be formed for this, with membership from FCAS/SCAP and potentially from FCTL. The review process was discussed. Removal of such a program, after reviews, would require an RCEP. The proposed assessment is attached as Exhibit A.

#### 4. **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.

SCAP Action Taken: 12/07/2012 - Post Tri-Campus Review. Approve of responses and recommend forward to FCAS.

The proposed minor in Nutritional Sciences had a significant number of comments from the Tri-Campus Review process. The Minor was revised to the B track, as suggested. SCAP expressed content on this revised proposal.

#### **Motion to approve. The motion was unanimously approved.**

#### 3. **Civil and Environmental Engineering** - (CEE-20121015) Major revisions to the Bachelor of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering degree.

Background: The CEE department is making major revisions to their junior year courses as well as additional changes to the credits for the Capstone sequence, the upper-division electives, and replacing CEE 363 with any W or C credits. \*\* They have already implemented these changes. \*\*

SCAP Action Taken: 11/02/2012 - Approve and forward to FCAS.

SCAP Action Taken: 12/07/2012 - Approve and forward to FCAS.

This program had new courses approved, and implemented a major requirements without consulting FCAS. Questions had arisen whether these course changes were significant revisions. SCAP's questions were answered by Department Chair Gregory Miller, although the department should have informed FCAS of such changes. The proposal contains increases in credits for specific 400 level courses, which are capstone courses, which still await alteration.

#### **Motion to approve. The motion was approved, with one abstention.**

#### **4) Reports**

##### **a. Student Diversity Requirement**

Dillon provided an update on the Student Diversity Requirement. An article will be published in the UW Daily on Wednesday, however the article is inaccurate. ASUW Representative Michael Kutz informed that there is a change in the process, and that FCMA will bring this proposal to FCAS. Students are still involved, but are supporting the faculty on this. This proposal will be submitted later this month.

b. Online Undergraduate Degree Completion Update

The Social Sciences degree within the Online Undergraduate Degree Completion initiative has been delayed. This is awaiting further revisions from the College of Arts & Sciences. A new degree, Education and Early Childhood Development, will be proposed sooner than Social Sciences. Robert Corbett and Jennifer Payne can bring a revised 1503 form to FCAS, which has altered language to account for such online proposals. This may require Class B Legislation to clarify the rights of students within such a program, as definitions exist for evening degree, regular non-matriculated students, and this falls outside these categories. The 45 credit resident requirement can be waived temporarily by FCAS.<sup>1</sup>

c. Admissions and Graduation Subcommittee

The Admissions and Graduation Subcommittee was requested to consider what kinds of questions on criminal or disciplinary actions applicants should identify on their admissions forms. The Subcommittee was amenable to asking about criminal felony history, but had reservations about including high school disciplinary actions. The Subcommittee considered the fact that ex-criminals have already paid their debts to society, and weighed this with the importance of providing a safe campus. The UW is considering using the Common Application,<sup>2</sup> which requires such a question, however the University could choose not to receive such information.

**5) Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 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), Cunningham, Janssen, Holt, Kramer, Taggart, Pengra, Stroup  
**President's Designee:** Ballinger  
**Ex-Officio Reps:** Fugate, Kutz  
**Guests:** Virjean Edwards, Deborah Wiegand, Robert Corbett

**Absent:**           **Faculty:** Almgren, Keil, Melin  
**Ex-Officio Reps:** Wensel, Randall, Anderson

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<sup>1</sup> Scholastic Regulation 1.B.1)

<http://www.washington.edu/admin/rules/policies/SGP/ScholRegCH114.html#1>

<sup>2</sup> A standardized first-year application: <https://www.commonapp.org/CommonApp/default.aspx>

## Exhibit A: Proposed Integrated Sciences Program Assessment

### VIII. Program Assessment

An important component of the degree program will be assessment, both internal on an ongoing basis and external periodically.

The internal assessment process will be performed in collaboration with the university's Office of Educational Assessment. An initial assessment of the new 400-level courses will be based on student and collegial evaluations, allowing instructors to make revisions and refinements. Once the courses have matured, the Integrated Sciences steering committee and OEA will evaluate how well the courses meet the goals of the program.

The capstone sequence will provide a natural setting for assessment of the effectiveness of the program in preparing students for careers or graduate programs. Direct observation of student performance in class and in research presentations will be supplemented by exit interviews with graduates and follow-up questionnaires two and five years after graduation. The director and steering committee, with the advice of OEA consultants, will review the data and revise the program accordingly.

During the fifth year of the program, the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of the Environment will jointly conduct an external review of the Integrated Sciences degree program, modeled on decadal departmental program reviews. The deans will appoint a review committee and decide on the details of the review process. It would be natural to anticipate that the committee will comprise UW faculty who are not Integrated Sciences participants as well as one or two faculty from other universities who have experience with integrated science programs.

Prior to the review committee's visit, the Integrated Sciences director will prepare a report on the program's accomplishments and challenges, including data on student interest, student performance, and student post-graduate activities. The external review committee will focus on the effectiveness of the degree in meeting student needs. Is the academic program coherent and rigorous? Is it attracting sufficiently many students, and does it provide them with the intellectual content they need? Do they value the program intrinsically for the educational experience it provides, and does it prepare them successfully for graduate program admissions or jobs? Most important, does the program meet a need that existing academic programs do not? For example, does it better prepare students anticipating secondary science teaching careers? The committee will also consider how well the program is administered.

On conclusion of the review, the two deans will decide whether the Integrated Sciences degree program should continue as is, should be revised, or should be terminated. After this initial review, the deans will also decide whether to schedule the next review in five years, ten years, or an alternative interval. It is expected that reviews will occur at least every ten years thereafter.