

University of Washington  
Faculty Council on Academic Standards  
January 10, 2014, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm  
Gerberding 142

**Meeting Synopsis:**

1. Call to Order
  2. Review of the Minutes from December 6, 2013
  3. Chair's Report
  4. SCAP Report
    - a. Consent Agenda (Routine Actions)
    - b. Old Non-routine Business
    - c. New Non-routine Business
  5. Good of the Order
  6. Adjourn
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**1) Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kramer at 1:30 p.m.

**2) Review of Minutes from December 6, 2013**

The minutes from December 6, 2013 were approved as amended.

**3) Chair's Report**

*Graduation Rates*

Kramer reported on recent discussions from the enrollment task force. During its last meeting the task force discussed graduation rates at UW which appear to be quite low when compared with peer institutions. The 4-year graduation rate at UW is 56% compared to higher graduation rates at peer institutions including:

- University of Virginia – 87%
- University of North Carolina – 77%
- University of Michigan – 78%
- University of Illinois – 69%

In reviewing these numbers the task force is concerned about why UW lags so far behind other universities. There will be conversations about graduation rates later during the Spring Quarter and Kramer believes the council should play a role in the discussions.

Kramer clarified that there was no mention about transfer students in these findings. Additionally, the UW graduation rate just applies to UW-Seattle. A question was raised asking how the institutions were chosen to compare against UW. Discussion ensued. UW usually compares itself with these institutions on a number of issues because they are relatively comparable, such as salary policy. A comment was raised that these institutions have a different population of out-of-state students who are paying more

money, so the comparison is not on the same level. It does not appear that the numbers mean anything when compared to other institutions. Kramer explained that there is no answer explaining why UW is lagging behind and stressed that a 56% graduation rate is not good, whether or not UW is being compared against other institutions.

A comment was raised that FCAS needs the data before identifying solutions. Kramer stressed that while that is correct, FCAS needs to play a role in the conversation at the very beginning. A question was raised asking if this is an increase or decrease from past years. There is no information at this point. A comment was raised stating that since no comparative data is available; these statistics do not mean anything.

### *Class B legislation*

This upcoming Monday Kramer will discuss the Class B legislation that was recently approved by FCAS. Kramer reported that she already received questions about the new definitions of students. Specifically, there has been negative feedback about the term “generally admitted” students. Kramer expressed concern that the task force has already spent too much time developing a proper term and there does not appear to be any good alternatives.

Currently, the two classifications are “regular” and “limited” which are to be changed to “generally” and “program specific”. In order for the language to change the Class B legislation needs to be approved by the Senate Executive Committee, the Faculty Senate, and then the voting faculty. A question was raised asking who specifically does not like the current changes. Kramer’s feedback came from Jim Gregory, the past Chair of the Faculty Senate. Discussion ensued about possible alternatives. A comment was raised that the term “generally admitted” will be used independently anyways in many areas. In order to reduce confusion amongst students it is better to use a simple word for the majority of students who attend UW.

### *Ad Hoc Committee on Courses*

Kramer is in the process of developing an ad hoc committee on courses and is looking for volunteers to sit on this committee.

### *Senate Committee on Planning and Budgeting*

Kramer attended the recent Senate Committee on Planning and Budgeting meeting to hear a presentation on the proposed online Integrated Social Sciences (ISS) degree. ISS has decided there will be separate resident/non-resident tuition fees, with non-resident rates approximately 20% higher than in-state fees. A question was raised asking if this applies to all online degrees. The fees just apply to ISS, with in-state residents paying \$8,995/year. Kramer explained this is somewhat more than the recently-approved online Early Childhood and Family Studies (ECFS) degree which is approximately \$7,000/year. A question was raised asking if this is related to a certain number of credits. Kramer explained the fee represents a full time student. Discussion ensued.

The number of students currently budgeted is 300 full-time equivalents, which probably reflects 450 actual students. By the 6th year of the program ISS expects the number to increase to 750 students. A question was raised asking if ISS truly believes a demand exists to attract these many students to the

program. ISS does believe such a demand exists since they predicted this estimate. A comment was raised explaining the estimate is much lower than the original prediction last year with 5,000 students.

#### **4) SCAP Report [Exhibit A]**

##### ***Consent Agenda (Routine Actions)***

There were no consent agenda items

##### ***Old Non-Routine Business***

*#1: Biology - (BIOL-20130827) Revised admissions requirements and establishing a continuation policy for both the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Science degrees in Biology.*

The Biology department is requesting to move to competitive admissions and implementing a continuation policy effective SUM/2014 as they feel unable to sustain 1700 undergraduate majors due to resources and a low level of student academic readiness to engage in a natural sciences major. The new admissions requirements would ensure students are adequately prepared to enter the major and the continuation policy will ensure they are meeting the University's Satisfactory Progress Policy. The proposal went through Tri-Campus review and received just one comment. Taggart explained that the number of admitted students reduced from 1,700 to only 1,500 which is an improvement from the original proposal.

The proposal received unanimous approval.

*#2: Jackson School - (JSIS-20130415) New minor in Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies.*

The Jackson School is proposing a new minor in Russian, East European, and Central Asian studies (REECAS) to complement the major. The minor will allow non-Jackson School majors interested in REECA regional studies the opportunity to further their studies and demonstrate they have specialty knowledge about the region. The proposal went through Tri-Campus review and received all positive comments.

The proposal received unanimous approval.

##### ***New Non-Routine Business***

*#2: Information School - (INFO-20131205) New option in Information Assurance and Cybersecurity within the Bachelor of Science degree in Informatics.*

The Information School, in conjunction with Bothell CSS and Tacoma T INST, is proposing a Tri-Campus option in Information Assurance and Cybersecurity. Each campus will be submitting independently and will administer the option independently, all three campuses are working together to offer classes that will apply to the options.

The proposal received unanimous approval.

*#1: Integrated Social Sciences - (ISS-20131008) New online Bachelor of Arts degree in Integrated Social Sciences.*

Kramer explained that within the 1503 there is no place that actually states the ISS degree is a “limited admission” program. For example, the online ECFS degree specifically states the degree is “limited admissions” and that students are not allowed to transfer programs without applying to UW through the regular admissions process. Kramer explained that the catalogue copy can be modified when new language is updated based on the pending Class B legislation.

Kramer mentioned that the proposal currently allows the dean to make the decision on whether or not the program will go forward in the review of the 6<sup>th</sup> year. This is currently not included in the section covering the review period and needs to be added.

Taggart reported that the proposal generated a great deal of discussion in SCAP with a majority of the committee voting to approve the 1503 (one member voting against). The dissenting member did not vote to approve the 1503 but wished to move it to FCAS for further consideration. The primary concern was that the proposal still includes too many thematic areas. When reviewing the proposal the separate themes appear to be more similar than different. For example, while there may be specific courses within each thematic area there is still substantial overlap. However, it was noted that the proposal has been reworked to clearly define the differences between each area.

Kramer reminded the council that with a positive vote the additional changes to the proposal will go back to ISS for approval. If the changes are approved it will enter the Tri-Campus comment period which happens to coincide with the upcoming Faculty Senate meeting in which Matt Sparke, director of the ISS degree, will present on the proposal. At the end of the 3-week comment period ISS will have to respond to any comments that are generated. SCAP will review ISS’ response which will be sent to FCAS for approval. The Faculty Council on Tri-Campus Policy would then conduct a final review. A question was raised asking what action the Faculty Senate can take on the proposal. The Faculty Senate does not take any particular action but senators can report back to their constituents about the presentation.

Concern was raised that the proposal has so many new parts which are much different than what UW currently offers. This concern and several other reasons make it very difficult to determine if the ISS online degree will actually work. Plus, if the ISS degree does work it will look unrecognizable to the current proposal. A suggestion was made that the online degree is an experiment . A suggestion was made to come back in a year so ISS can report about what works well and what can be improved.

Currently, the proposal requires only a 6-year review. Similar concerns have come up such as identifying demand for the degree but the only way to know the answer is to try it first. A suggestion was made to shorten the review period to 3 years. Wensel expressed concern about a 3-year review because there is a tremendous amount of work and time required while redirecting faculty energy and resources away from improving services. Additionally, a 3-year review would only have 2 years of data in which only a few students would have graduated. An alternative would be to return to FCAS with an informal report that identifies what works and what needs to be improved.

A comment was raised that the intent of the review is not a full-scale program review, but a smaller report with raw data on items like participation, graduation rates, and number of applicants, similar to current 1503s. A question was raised asking if the results of the 3-year review would result in the cancellation of the program, or if the review would just be a requirement for ISS to report to FCAS. Discussion ensued. The decision could be made at that time. Janssen mentioned that Engineering is

required to have 3-year reviews and explained that the value of the program review is much greater than the burden of redirecting resources. Discussion ensued.

Concern was raised that the proposal was poorly written. For example, the exaggerated claims in the proposal are hard to take seriously and will result in something completely different if implemented. Concern was raised with previous experiences with Professional Continuing Education and how they would run the program, regardless of faculty input. A question was raised asking why this would be any different from other undergraduate programs because they are receiving this much attention and oversight. The ISS online degree does not appear different than any other new program proposal. A comment was raised that ISS is different because it does not require a methodology course. While there are 2 courses available, it is not required for graduation. Due to the way the program is set up there is little confidence the ISS degree would meet the claims outlined in the proposal.

A comment was raised that the more significant issue is how students are being admitted because it is different than the traditional process. The admissions office does not have experience with this type of admissions, and from personal experience, programs just admit students to fill up their numbers without regards to academic standards.

Emily Leggio (Senior Associate Director for Enrollment Policy, Planning and Research) explained that the admissions office will be working with ISS to conduct the admissions for this program and will admit based on specific standards. While admissions will not be competitive like other programs it will operate very much the same as the evening degree program. Concern was raised that incoming students will be very different from traditional students and their performance will be a big surprise for faculty who are teaching the courses. A comment was raised stating this is the whole purpose of a degree completion program. These issues are anticipated which is why ISS is prepared for these challenges.

A comment was raised that social sciences attracts students with diverse backgrounds requiring instructors to teach students with little common knowledge. A question was raised asking how this is different than traditional students in current interdisciplinary courses who have widely diverse backgrounds. The students who will be taking these courses are professionals with full-time jobs with a great deal of experience. A comment was made that the concern is not about the quality of the students enrolled, but how the program demonstrates these students can meet the core credits required in social sciences. Discussion ensued. Concern was raised that the ISS degree does not have the structured hierarchy for students to pass through before graduation.

Kramer discussed her personal experience as an undergraduate majoring in Engineering, then as a graduate student in Anthropology. Kramer stressed that social sciences is fundamentally different because it studies how the world works within grey areas of common knowledge. The strength of social sciences relies on personal experiences from both professors and students. A comment was raised that it is very challenging to teach advanced material to students who do not have common core knowledge. While that is true faculty members are excited about this program and the challenges/opportunities that will arise. Discussion ensued about core methodology courses provided in the degree.

A question was raised asking where the proposal states the number of credits required to graduate. Students will have 75 credits coming into the program and need 180 to finally graduate. Since the proposal does not specifically state "180 credits", Kramer will ask ISS to include it somewhere in the proposal.

Discussion moved back to the 6-year review period. A comment was raised stating there does not appear to be a burden for annual updates. A comment was raised stressing the importance in having the specifics of what ISS needs to track if the council wants annual updates. Discussion ensued about the type of information that could be tracked to assist with a review. A question was raised asking if the continuation of the program is conditional on the approval of the 3-year review. If that is the case, and the council does not approve the program at the 3-year review, then it could all shut down. A comment was raised that if the council approves the proposal now there will be a lot of pressure to approve it in the future. Discussion ensued. A comment was raised that there is no similar evaluation of the ECFS online degree.

Kramer stressed that having the 3-year review determine the continuation of the degree would make it appear as a temporary program. This would be a “death knell” to the ISS online degree because students would not want to enroll, and faculty would not want to teach, if this is considered temporary. Discussion ensued. A comment was raised that if the review is required FCAS must be explicit in what ISS needs to track. Once the proposal undergoes Tri-Campus review FCAS can review the feedback to determine what issues need to be tracked. A suggestion was made to call the review a “progress report” to clarify this is different than a traditional full review. Discussion ensued. The particulars of the 3-year progress report do not need to be ratified until FCAS receives comments from the Tri-Campus review.

Kramer called the question - Amend the ISS online degree proposal with the following revisions:

- Include a 3-year progress report
- Include a statement that the ISS degree is a “limited admission” program
- Include a statement that students require 180 credits to graduate
- Include a statement in the appropriate section which explains the dean will make the decision on whether or not the program will go forward after the 6-year review

The amendment received unanimous approval.

Kramer called the question - Approve the ISS online degree with the amended revisions:

The council voted as followed:

Approve – 11

Reject – 1

## **5) Good of the Order**

McNerney asked the council which body, or individual, determines the acceptance of Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate credits. Discussion ensued. Faculty members within the relevant department make the determination if advanced high school credits meet the academic standards of the department.

## **6) Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Kramer at 3:00 p.m.

**Present:**       **Faculty:** Kramer (Chair), Cunningham, Harrison, Hoff, Janssen, Melin, Pengra, Salehi-Esfahani, Taggart  
                  **Ex-Officio Reps:** Chin Roemer, McNerney, Wensel  
                  **Guests:** Robert Corbett (Coordinator of New Programs), Virjean Edwards (University Registrar), Emily Leggio (Senior Associate Director for Enrollment, Policy, Planning & Research)

**Absent:**       **Faculty:** Brock, Keil  
                  **President's Designee:** Ballinger  
                  **Ex-Officio Reps:** Kollet

Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs (SCAP) Summary

**1:30-3:00 pm**

**January 17, 2014**

**Gerberding 036**

**Old New Routine Business**

1. **Public Health** - ([SPH-20130924](#)) Revised admission and program requirements for both the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in Public Health.

Background: The School wants allow NUTR 300 to count as an option for admissions, replace the current foundations courses with an integrated SPH core (courses under development), add selectives coursework in the BA and BS degrees, add 5 additional upper division elective credits, and replace the one quarter capstone with a two-quarter sequence.

Action Taken: 11/01/2013 - Hold for approval of new SPH core courses. Clarify BS science credits.

Update: SPH will allow the basic science and BS science selectives to double count. So the credits would be 97-119 total for the major and a minimum of 20 additional science selectives if students double count BIOL 180 and CHEM 142 in both requirements.

Action Taken: 01/17/2014 - Approve and forward to FCAS pending approval of SPH 380, 381, 480, and 481 at the January 21st Curriculum Meeting.

**New Non-Routine Business:**

1. **History** - ([HIST-20131018A](#)) New minor in History of Empire and Colonialism.

Background: The History department is trying to better showcase their depth of comparative fields and is proposing four new minors for students to take.

Action Taken: 01/17/2014 - Approve and forward to FCAS pending departmental approval of a change to a 2.0 cum GPA and 5 maximum credit overlap for all new history minors,. Suggestion to department to submit 1503's to include these restrictions in the existing history minors.

Update: History has agreed to the 2.0 cum GPA and the overlapping credit restriction. They will start 1503 paperwork for the existing minors once the new minors are approved.

2. **History** - ([HIST-20131018B](#)) New minor in History of War and Society.

Background: The History department is trying to better showcase their depth of comparative fields and is proposing four new minors for students to take.

Action Taken: 01/17/2014 - Approve and forward to FCAS pending departmental approval of a change to a 2.0 cum GPA and 5 maximum credit overlap for all new history minors,. Suggestion to department to submit 1503's to include these restrictions in the existing history minors.

Update: History has agreed to the 2.0 cum GPA and the overlapping credit restriction. They will start 1503 paperwork for the existing minors once the new minors are approved.

**NEXT MEETING: January 31, 2014**

3. **History** - ([HIST-20131018C](#)) New minor in History of Religion and Society.

Background: The History department is trying to better showcase their depth of comparative fields and is proposing four new minors for students to take.

Action Taken: 01/17/2014 - Approve and forward to FCAS pending departmental approval of a change to a 2.0 cum GPA and 5 maximum credit overlap for all new history minors,. Suggestion to department to submit 1503's to include these restrictions in the existing history minors.

Update: History has agreed to the 2.0 cum GPA and the overlapping credit restriction. They will start 1503 paperwork for the existing minors once the new minors are approved.

4. **History** - ([HIST-20131018D](#)) New minor in History of Race, Gender, and Power.

Background: The History department is trying to better showcase their depth of comparative fields and is proposing four new minors for students to take.

Action Taken: 01/17/2014 - Approve and forward to FCAS pending departmental approval of a change to a 2.0 cum GPA and 5 maximum credit overlap for all new history minors,. Suggestion to department to submit 1503's to include these restrictions in the existing history minors.

Update: History has agreed to the 2.0 cum GPA and the overlapping credit restriction. They will start 1503 paperwork for the existing minors once the new minors are approved.

5. **School of Music** - ([MUSIC-20131001](#)) New Bachelor of Music degree in Percussion with options in Orchestral Percussion & Contemporary Percussion and Mallet Keyboard.

Background: The School of Music would like to offer a major in Percussion within its Bachelor of Music degree to support the growing student interest in percussion studies. . The catalog copy mentions two options within the percussion major and calls it both Percussion and Percussion Studies.

Action Taken: 01/17/2014 - Hold for confirmation of program requirements. 6 credits of the School of Music Core are excluded from this major. The School needs clarify and also submit a 1503 to change the Music core in the General Catalog to exclude the Percussion major. Need clean catalog copy.

Update: The catalog copy is clean, but the faculty will need to discuss the music core requirements and then respond.

**New Routine Business:**

1. **Biology** - ([BIOL-20131108](#)) Revised program requirements for both the Bachelor of Arts degree and the Bachelor of Science degree in Biology.

Background: The Biology department wants to allow either GENOME 361 or GENOME 371 to count for the majors.

Action Taken: 01/17/2014 - Approve forward to FCAS.

**NEXT MEETING: January 31, 2014**

2. History - ([HIST-20131202](#)) Revised program requirements for Bachelor of Arts degree in History.

Background: The History department wishes to modify how student gain breadth of historical knowledge within the major. They are proposing to eliminate their "broad" U.S. European, and non-Western designations and require students to instead take at least one five credit course in four of six areas they teach. This will require them to reduce their electives by 5 credits.

Action Taken: 01/17/2014 - Hold for possible curriculum prefix revisions.

3. Statistics - ([STAT-20131107](#)) Revised program requirements for the minor in Statistics.

Background: The Statistics department is proposing to restrict the amount of overlap between their minor and students' majors to 5 credits.

Action Taken: 01/17/2014 -

4. Electrical Engineering - ([EE-20131203](#)) Revised admission requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering degree.

Background: The Electrical Engineering department is changing its upper-division admissions requirements to allow students to apply earlier which makes its early admissions process obsolete. So students will now be able to apply for Direct Freshman admission or upper division admission which should cause less confusion for students.

Action Taken: 01/17/2014 -

**Other Business:**

1. Revising FCAS guidelines on [Admissions](#) to Majors. Jenny T and Jennifer P to work on proposed language.
2. Defining [Option](#) guidelines. Spreadsheet of [current degrees/majors with options](#) at the Seattle campus.- Jenny T and Jennifer P to work on proposed language.

**NEXT MEETING: January 31, 2014**