

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS
FRIDAY April 13, 2007
224 Mary Gates Hall

Chair George Dillon called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Chair's Report
 - a. Transfer policy
 - b. Course quality committees
 2. Approval of the March 30, 2007 FCAS minutes.
 3. Subcommittee Business:
 - SCAP – Steve Keith
 - Admissions and Graduation – Don Janssen
 4. New Business
 5. Adjourn
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1. Chair's Report

a. Chair Dillon mentioned that the Tri-Campus council received a preliminary draft of the new transfer policy. The policy would allow all students to pursue two concurrent majors without having to apply for a separate university admission. It would also enable students to enroll in classes across campuses, so that a UW Tacoma student, for example, could take classes at UW Seattle. Students are required to hold at least a 3.0 grade point average to participate. Dillon said that the policy was being routed to the Admissions and Graduation Subcommittee. Council member Janssen noted that the subcommittee will meet next Thursday from 1:00 – 2:30 in 208 Schmitz Hall.

b. The next issue concerned the Course Quality Committee. Dillon noted that he had spoken with Gerry Philipsen, Secretary to the Faculty Senate, about setting up a joint committee. The committee would be set for next year, with at least one FCAS liaison. Dillon stated that FCAS needs to work up clear charges for the committee, like course loads. Janssen expressed his interest in serving on the committee. Council member Nobles inquired whether the committee would be charged to check the course quality for undergraduates as well as for the graduate school. He noted that graduate students often complain about the quality of graduate courses. For example, courses get canceled, or the instructors don't make them interesting, etc. Dillon remarked that some of those issues are related to quality of instruction. Janssen suggested that they include a representative from the Graduate School Council on the Course Quality Committee. He noted that the Graduate School reviews undergraduate programs which affect the course quality. Council member Corbett inquired if UW Tacoma and Bothell campuses were to be involved in the committee. Janssen proposed that the focus remain on UW Seattle for now. He argued that the history of courses with long-term instructors was not yet likely

an issue for UW Tacoma and Bothell. He noted that he wanted to look at “the quality of the course as it degenerated over time.” Corbett stated that he was not sure how the two campuses would think about it. Council member Johnson suggested that the Faculty Council on Instructional Quality should be involved in it. Council member Trudeau noted that FCIQ did scholarship training, so it would probably be good to work with them. Council member Wiegand inquired if the committee was charged to look at process or courses. It was noted that both process and identification of courses would come out of the committee. Janssen remarked that it was a good idea to have a recommendation for the future when this committee finishes. Wiegand recommended that the committee have some review before it implements changes. Janssen stated that the committee’s recommendations would go before the SEC, as an opportunity for outside input. He noted that barring any major objections, it would probably be implemented. Dillon remarked that he could see about five total members involved.

On another note, Dillon reported that he had heard from Marcy Stein who has asked him to send down some faculty advisers for a faculty oversight committee. She told him that they want to know how we do it and how it works, on FCAS. Council members Johnson, Wiegand, and Corbett volunteered to serve on the committee. Dillon stated that he wasn’t certain how close as “faculty” the representatives needed to be.

Dillon noted that retiring council member Keith had a replacement coming shortly. His name is Richard Fitzpatrick and he will fill Keith’s role as a member of both FCAS and SCAP (not as Chair). Dillon said that Gerry Philipsen is agreeable to the change.

2. Approval of the March 30, 2007 FCAS minutes

Council members Janssen and Wiegand asked for several changes to the minutes. The minutes will be corrected and reviewed again for approval at the next FCAS meeting.

3. Subcommittee Business:

SCAP – Steve Keith

Council member Keith provided an overview of old business from SCAP. He told the council that he would recommend as “routine” the Health Informatics and “Health” Information Management request for a change in name. This was approved by the council with no comment.

The School of Social Work is requesting a new program leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Community, Leadership, and Social Justice. Keith remarked that the school has answered the committee’s questions well and that he would recommend it to go forward to FCTCP and HECB for approval. Janssen asked him if there had been any responses from the Department. Keith replied that there had been review comments sent to him, but that nothing substantially negative was said. Janssen inquired about the revised course list. Keith noted that a posted list should be revised. Janssen made a motion to approve the request, Johnson seconded it, and the council approved it.

Keith noted that the third item on Early Childhood and Family Studies was a work-in-progress, and was not yet ready for council review.

The fourth item under old business concerns a request for a new minor in Education, Learning, and Society. This would be a joint venture between the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Education. Keith noted that the proposal had lacked specificity. Corbett remarked that they were in the process of developing courses. Keith said he would recommend it to be approved as non-routine and forwarded to the Tri-Campus council. Janssen noted from the 15 credit list of approved courses there are plenty of lower division courses, but only five credits of upper division classes available. Corbett explained that a lot of the courses that they are suggesting are teaching courses, so that the focus of the 15 credits is on teaching. Janssen suggested that he would be more comfortable if there were more than one course that was upper division. Keith noted that they could request that the line be changed to say “at least 10 credits of upper division.” Wiegand suggested that they look at the fact it is a minor and whether or not they needed upper division courses. She inquired about the location of the program’s administrative home. Corbett explained that the interdisciplinary nature of the program meant that for the first two years, it would be with the College of Arts and Sciences, and then would shift to the College of Education. Janssen suggested that they note the change in credits, and approve it as pending with the change. Keith then made a motion to approve the proposal with the change, and Nobles seconded it. The council approved the proposal with no further comment.

SCAP -- New Business:

New SCAP business includes review of six proposals, five of which come out of the College of Forestry. The first two proposals from the department of Construction Management and the College of Forestry are requesting revisions in their program requirements for their Majors within the Bachelor of Science. Keith described both proposals as “routine” and recommended their approval. A motion was made to approve them and seconded. The council unanimously passed the motion.

Council member Trudeau noted that proposals three through six concern new options within the College of Forestry that reflect current faculty research interests. She noted that the last option has a capstone component to it. Council member Rickerson inquired whether the College of Forestry had its library resources in place for the new options, or did they expect new resources. Trudeau explained how the College of Forestry was working with the library liaison, and that it had no new courses and most of its coursework in place. Janssen asked about the specific number of upper division courses. Trudeau explained the division of upper and lower core course requirements and how it was meant to attract students outside the College. Nobles asked if the core of Teaching Assistants was sufficient to handle the undergraduate sections. Trudeau replied that there was enough coverage, about a one to one capacity. Wiegand inquired if the Restoration Ecology and Environmental Horticulture option was connected to Tri-Campus. Trudeau explained how they had the only undergraduate certification program working with all

three campuses in which students worked towards a restoration project, which is part of the capstone requirement. Council member Newell asked whether the non-option and option had a different capstone requirement. Trudeau explained the various courses available, and the kinds of projects that allowed students to complete different options. At this point Keith proposed that a vote be called to approve the four College of Forestry options together. Janssen made the motion, and Keith seconded it. The motion was approved and forwarded to the Registrar for Tri-Campus review.

Admissions and Graduation – Don Janssen

Janssen stated that he was a member of the Reorganization, Consolidation, and Elimination of Programs Committee that was currently reviewing the proposed elimination of the Pathobiology Department. Janssen offered a warning about the kinds of mistakes made at the Administrative level. He noted the implications of moving the degree program for the graduate students in Pathobiology, and emphasized the need for University action and review by an independent committee. Keith inquired if there was a rule that allowed for graduate students to finish an eliminated program once they have started it. Council member Mildon stated that was true. Janssen remarked that about 40 graduate students would be affected, and that they were being directed into a new interdisciplinary degree program.

Council member Ballinger provided an update on UW Seattle Admissions for fall 2007. He said that offers for next year were made and finalized about one month ago. He described this year's "strong applicant pool" as one of the most selective since 1988. He noted that the UW expects about 5,300 students in the fall 2007 freshman class, with a 62% acceptance rate. With the academic profile of students improving, and the University accepting fewer students next year, it has become harder for good students to get admitted. A discussion followed about the fewer number of transfer students coming from Washington State Community Colleges, and their weaker academic performance. Wiegand explained that there are still good transfer students, but that the range is wider. Ballinger discussed the rebound occurring in enrollment as community college admissions numbers are down. Council member Newell inquired about parents complaining about the new evaluation system. Ballinger replied that there are good students on the waitlist and that parents still complain because these students aren't readily admitted. He noted that there were more offers to students in the higher Admittance Index bracket (70-99), and that they will be taking more spots in the admittance pool.

4. New Business

Janssen noted that Wiegand's handout from the last FCAS meeting was to be addressed today. Wiegand requested more time to respond to the council's question about the University's general education transfer agreement. Corbett inquired about who enforces students to complete their general education requirements. Keith replied that the Degree Auditing Reporting System does that. Corbett asked if students can override DARS.

Wiegand replied that students can petition for an exception, but it is usually denied. She noted that essentially, the Dean of the College is the one who approves it.

5. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes by Melissa Kane, Faculty Senate, mmkane@u.washington.edu, or 206.543.2884

Present:

Professors: Cunningham, Dillon, Janssen, Johnson, Keith, Newell

Ex-Officio: Rickerson, McManaway (for Shields), Nobles

Regularly Invited Guests: Ballinger, Corbett, Mildon, Trudeau, Wiegand

Absent:

Professors: Brixey (excused), Keil (excused)

Ex-Officio: Taylor

Members of Representative Groups: Navin

Regularly Invited Guests: Winslow