

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Academic Standards
Friday, 02 June 2006
36 Gerberding Hall

Chair Don Janssen called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Minutes & Announcements
2. Subcommittee on Academic Programs: Routine Business
3. BA in Biochemistry
4. Admissions
5. New Business: Summer Bridge Program

1. Minutes

The minutes for the May 19, 2006 meeting were moved for approval by SW, seconded by SK, and the approved with a correction to section 4 concerning the number of petitions for reconsideration of admission.

2. Subcommittee on Academic Programs: Routine Business

Old Business:

1. **Biochemistry** — (BIOC-20060109). New Program Leading to a Bachelor of Arts in Biochemistry degree.

Background/Justification: The enrollment growth for the biochemistry degree has created two primary issues that this new degree proposal addresses. The first of these is that there are a significant number of students who wish to obtain a deep understanding of the field of biochemistry, who are seeking a broader educational experience than is practical given the extensive coursework requirements of the existing B.S. degree. To meet this need, we believe the UW should offer the proposed B. A. in Biochemistry, a degree that is less extensive in coursework compared to the B.S. thus providing students with the flexibility to study biochemistry while pursuing other interests.

The second issue arises as a result of the failure of a small number of capable students to achieve the high academic standards required to earn the B.S. in Biochemistry. At present, they are at a late stage diverted to the program that leads them to the B.A. in Chemistry. It would make far more sense for these students to complete the proposed B.A. in Biochemistry.

Action Taken: 2/17/06 - Not Routine, SCAP votes to Hold application.

Debbie Wiegand to contact BIOC to discuss the possibility of having representative from BIOC come and talk to SCAP. SCAP wants definition from FCAS on what defines a BA vs. a BS. SCAP is interested in looking into broader possibilities for the BA in Biochemistry, such as double major, adding electives/focus in Global Health, Public Health, Bioethics, etc.

3/3/06 – 4/14/06 No new action due to emergency leave. Keep on hold.

Action Taken: 4/28/06 – Keep on hold.

Debbie to invite Biochemistry to meeting on **5/12/06** to discuss expected outcomes, broader electives, GPA requirements vs. admission requirements, and FCAS guidelines for BA vs. BS.

Action Taken: 5/12/06 –Chemistry/Biochemistry Advisors to be present.

Lani Stone and Mary Harty to go back and discuss changes (drop 3rd term O-Chem, Physics Lab, etc.) with faculty. Move credits to electives, which could be broadened to include coursework in fields such as Medical History and Ethics, Bioinformatics, etc.

1503 and supplement documentation to be revised and submitted for meeting 5/26/06.

Action Taken: 5/26/06 –Recommend: Approved Non-Routine.

SCAP would like FCAS to discuss the following issues.

- Distinction between BA and BS (i.e Is the program/electives broad enough for a BA or is it just BS light?)
- Number of required courses. (Most students will take over 90 credits, 95 on average under this proposal)

2. **Art** – (ART-20060228A) Revised admission and program requirements for the major in Painting and Drawing within the Bachelor of Fine Arts.

Background/Justification: The existing admissions policy implemented 2 years has created a roadblock for students (especially transfer students). Art proposes to eliminate the portfolio review requirement and to broaden the Art History 15 credit program requirement.

Action Taken: 5/12/06 – Hold – need to clarify GPA admission/program requirement. To be reviewed at next meeting. – Jennifer to contact department to inquiry about GPA requirement.

Action Taken: 5/26/2006 – Recommend: Approved Routine (with struggle over GPA requirement) – Pending edits.

Scott Winter to get revised catalog description page

New Business:

1. **American Ethnic Studies** - (AES-20060425) Revised requirements for the major in American Ethnic Studies within the Bachelor of Arts.

Background/Justification: a) Change required core from 35 credits to 15 credits and AIS courses moved to Related Courses. This would help the department focus on its 3 primary introductory courses and puts more emphasis on AES foundations rather than AIS. b) Require only AES 495 or AES 496 rather than both. This would give students more flexibility and alleviates pressure on faculty.

Action Taken: 5/26/06 – Hold.

SCAP would like the following issues resolved before approval

- Overlap in core and concentration courses
- What are the related courses in relation to the major and should they be listed in description.
- Section #2 in new catalog description not provided – is this to be included in new description?

2. **Philosophy** – (PHIL-20060214) Revised requirements for the major in Philosophy within the Bachelor of Arts.

Background/Justification: The department would like to add Philosophy GPA requirements to catalog. This is already practiced, but not listed in catalog.

Action Taken: 5/26/06 –Recommend: Approve Routine

3. **Philosophy** – (PHIL-20060504) New minor in Values in Society.

Background/Justification: To offer a minor through the Program on Values in Society, a UIF grant funded program whose projects include an undergraduate minor in ethics. This 25credit minor would

give students the option building a general ethics regimen or specialization in almost any field by combining ethics courses with other courses of their choice.

Action Taken: 5/26/06 –Hold.

SCAP would like to invite Program on Values in Society Director to address committee in the fall to address questions about interdisciplinary vs. philosophy minor, and the potential for students to only have to take 2-3 classes outside of their major for this minor.

4. **Statistics** – (STAT-20060426) Revised program requirements for the major in Statistics within the Bachelor of Science.

Background/Justification: Department would like to require all major to earn a min. GPA of 2.5 in all courses used to satisfy departmental requirements, not just STAT courses.

Action Taken: 5/26/06 – Recommend: Approve Routine with edits.

5. **Computer Science and Engineering** – (CSE-20060405A) Revised program requirements for the major in Computer Science within the Bachelor of Science.

Background/Justification: a) The department would like to add CSE 303 to core requirements for Computer Science to provide an introduction to operating systems, programming tools and group work. To offset the extra credits and minimize impact on student progress the department would also like to reduce 3 credits from the required senior electives.

b) The department would like to include CSE 466 as an allowable CSE elective course for Computer Science majors.

Action Taken: 5/26/06 – Recommend: Approve Routine with edits.

6. **Electrical Engineering** – (EE-20060502) Revised program requirements for the major in Electrical Engineering within the Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering.

Background/Justification: The current undergraduate curriculum is 17yrs old and does not allow for the flexibility to teach the newest technologies in the field. The department would like to reduce the required 9-course core, expand/diversify the senior capstone paths and allow students to take more electives.

Action Taken: 5/26/06 –Recommend: Approve Routine with edits.

- Divide electives into EE Pathways (minimum 24 credits) and EE Electives (up to 21 credits, to total 45)

3. Proposed BA in Biochemistry

SK introduced the proposal for a Bachelor of Arts in Biochemistry for FCAS approval to send to the Tri-Campus Review process. He noted that SCAP had questions about how to recommend the proposal because the proposal appears to be a "science-lite" version of the existing BS, though this is similar for other existing BA programs in science. Nevertheless, SCAP noted that the program is desirable for students and is a useful degree for the program to have, as it creates an alternative path for students who want to study biochemistry. SK said that main differences between the BS and the BA are the number of credits and the GPA requirement. The BS requires 106 credits, 11 of which are electives, while the BA requires 92 credits, 2-11 of which are electives depending upon what required courses the student takes. The BA requires a 2.00 GPA for courses in the major to graduate while the BS requires a 2.8 in courses in the major and total to graduate.

SW asked if students would select the degree rather than settle for it. DW said that both would occur. SK noted that it was quite likely that the BA option would attract students to the program. DJ said that there were two reservations about the proposal: first, even if it the program is similar to other Bas in science, is it correct to follow a precedent that is a bad precedent; and second, that there aren't many requirements that separate the two degree programs. DW said that by requiring a different Biochemistry sequence, the program reduced the amount of laboratory work necessary for the program. DJ said that this was a positive for the BS, but that it would be philosophically easier to approve the BA if there was a positive component to it.

Phil Reid, Professor and Associate Chair of Undergraduate Program in Chemistry, came to the meeting to answer the Council's questions about the proposal. Reid said that the genesis of the program is the demand for biochemistry. There are over 1000 majors in Chemistry and Biochemistry, and that the sequence of BIOC 440, 441, and 442, originally intended for a couple dozen majors, now serves over 400 students, making the program the largest in the country. The department also looked at the learning goals for the BA since the intent was to allow students to study biochemistry, but also give them more flexibility to broaden their education. He said that BS in particular presented problems for advisors in the cases of students who simply shouldn't have to take the BIOC 440, 441, 442 sequence in order to major in Biochemistry.

SW asked whether the department was ready to handle additional students who are attracted to the major. Reid said that initially the department can accommodate more students, but would have to consider about doing so in the future. MN asked whether the department had considered the model of Chemistry which has two BS options, one of which is professionally certified. Reid said that the department's experience was that the two options got confused. SW asked whether the department had considered how they would meet HECB expectations. RC said that the HECB typically looks at demand, but does not look as closely at purely academic issues. Reid said that there is a lot of capacity for Seattle to grow the biotech industry. MN said that there was still the issue of differentiating the programs based on GPA, particularly the required 2.8 total university GPA to graduate with the BS, since the University requirement is 2.00. Reid said that requirement for a total 2.8 GPA ultimately affected only a few students, and that it had been put in place when the program was first developed as an honors, interdisciplinary program. Creating the BA program would probably help remove the requirement.

DJ asked for a motion to approve sending the proposal to the tri-campus review. SK moved for its approval and GD seconded it. The motion to approve the proposal for tri-campus review was approved unanimously.

DJ noted that he had drafted a letter to be sent to departments that require a total University GPA greater than 2.00 to graduate in a particular major, and that the issue itself had been brought to FCAS by students. PR said most students affected by the requirement can successfully petition to have it waived, but he did

want to get rid of it as a matter of policy. He said that the requirement did affect how students choose courses outside the major, since they worry about risking their GPA.

4. Admissions Subcommittee

The committee discussed this next year's enrollment yields and Pell Grant eligibility. This year's yield encompasses a higher percentage of students, who have not been Pell Grant eligible in the past. In addition, 13 percent of the recent admits would not have been admitted by the Admissions' Index last year. The midrange students are higher; In addition, there was a reported reduction at the highest level and increase at the lowest level. Other schools are reporting higher yields as well: UC-Davis, 1,000 over; Iowa 300-400 over. Washington schools, in general, are under enrolled, with California experiencing the same thing. This year, there is a reported eight-applicant difference from last year, with acceptance being higher. 5100 students was the goal set out in March: admit rate is 68%. This freshman class reports a 53% female student ratio. SUU has over 60% female students: the national average is 60 % female; 40% male. In addition to freshman numbers, the four-year transfer students' numbers are up.

5. New Business: Bridge Program

Emile Pitre presented on the Bridge Program. With the first cohort coming up on graduation, Emile presented the following stats on the 2002 class of 83 students: 57 graduating; 11 left in good standing; 8 left; 7 kicked out because of low scholarship. One member is on the Dean's list and is entering the school of law. Students are considered for the Bridge program with a GPA between 2.9 – 3.4 and 900+ SAT. The Bridge program involves 4 weeks of rigorous summer training. Over all, 40 Bridge students have been on Dean's List; first-year retention is usually very high, but usually falls after sophomore year. The Bridge advising ratio is 1 adviser to 250 students. Last year, 85 students were admitted, 12 students over the limit. The greatest determiners for success is the GPA, while the most common indicators for trouble are a verbal score below 400 and a GPA lower than 2.8. Currently, there is support for low math scores but no explicit support for low verbal scores.

Present:

Faculty members:

Buck, S., Woods S., Newell, L., Dillon, G., Janssen, D., Keith, S.

Ex officio members:

Rickerson, C., Lee, J., Navin, M.

Regularly invited guests:

Ballinger, P., Corbett, R., Winslow, M., Wiegand, D.

Guests:

Pitre, E., Reid, P.

Absent:

Faculty members:

Stygall, G., Brixey, S.

Ex-officio members:

Ingebritsen, C., Nyquist, J., Trudeau, M., Louie, H.