

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Academic Standards
Friday, 21 April 2006
142 Gerberding Hall

Chair Don Janssen called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Minutes & Announcements
2. Subcommittee on Academic Programs
3. Admissions: Policy and Procedures for Preliminary Admission of Recruited Student Athletes
4. Honors: GPA for Honors
5. Old Business
6. New Business: Council Next Steps

1. Minutes

The minutes for the 7 April 2006 meeting were approved with one correction.

2. Subcommittee on Academic Programs

Proposals to be addressed by the Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs (SCAP)
April 14, 2006

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.

2/17/06-- 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.

Action Taken: 3/3/06 – No new action. Keep on hold.

Action Taken 3/31/06 – No new action, keep on hold.

Action Taken: 4/14/06 – No new action, keep on hold.

2. **Program on the Environment** — (ENVIR-20051227). Revised Program Requirements for the Major in Environmental Studies within the Bachelor of Arts and Revised Requirements for the Minor in Environmental Studies.

Background/Justification: 1) Simplified degree options/tracks – We have eliminated the degree options, creating a simplified structure that maps directly to our learning goals and is easier for student to understand and navigate. 2) Improved foundational content – We have added new foundational requirements in Earth Systems Literacy and Values and Culture, dropped Biology 116 as an option for foundation in biological science since its content is too narrow to meet our Learning Goals, and change “Domains of Knowledge” into a streamlined “Perspectives and Experiences” set of requirements. d our quantitative requirement. 3) New Core and 4) Simplified “matrix” – We have greatly simplified and shortened the list of approved courses for the matrix portion of our old degree, reframing the former

Action Taken: 3/3/06 - SCAP to hold application for more thorough review and the passage of ENVIR 200 & 300 currently with the Curriculum Committee. SCAP concerned about the rigidity of the 100-200-300 sequence on transfer students.

Scott to get more information from PoE.

Action Taken: 3/31/06 – Scott to follow up with PoE on above questions.

Action Taken: 4/14/06 – Michelle Hall present to discuss our concerns. Provided new form with revisions to clarify GPA requirements, move the perspectives 30 credits language, change International to Global, want to keep the foundations course as is but will expand on Transfer Planning Sheet. She also acknowledged the rigidity of the core and is willing to look into adding extra sections after 06-07 academic year and allowing for 100 & 200 to then be allowed to be taken concurrently.

SCAP approved as routine pending receipt of a signed updated original.

New Business:

1. **Health Information Administration** — (HIA-20060302). Revised Requirements for the Major in Health Information Administration.

Background/Justification: We propose to make the following changes in our curriculum:

- a. Adjust courses to expand/re-align content sequence to meet new accreditation standards from the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA).
- b. Consolidate selected courses to provide more cohesive coverage.
- c. Meet course consolidation goals to accomplish budget objectives.

Action Taken: HOLD. New a new 1503 form filled out correctly. Scott had been working with HIA and will follow up.

As an adjunct to a discussion of the proposed changes to the BS (Health Information Administration), the Council also discussed FCAS's policy on awarding "certificates" to undergraduates. (HIA also may be taken as a certificate program as their curriculum is nationally accredited by AHIMA.) According to FCAS policy, the UW neither awards nor transcripts certificates to undergraduates. What are sometimes called "certificate programs"—the bundling of courses for a specific skill or area of study, such as Geographic Information Systems—can be awarded to undergraduates as "minors" or "options." The Graduate School does allow certificate programs, but only for students matriculated in academic degree programs. UWEO awards certificates for programs in continuing education, typically in non-credit bearing courses. Todd Mildon said that the Registrar's Office plans to include certificates as a part of making the online catalog a comprehensive record of academic programs. It was felt that it would be appropriate to look back at the Council's decision if only to reaffirm it.

3. Admissions Subcommittee: Preliminary Admission of Recruited Student Athletes

DJ reported that Pat Dobel had briefed the Faculty Senate about the proposal from Intercollegiate Athletics to create a preliminary admission process for recruited student athletes (RSAs), so the timing of FCAS's approval of the policy was fortunate. Phillip Ballinger presented the policy to council, saying that the rationale for the proposal is to compete for students being recruited by such universities as UCLA and Stanford which already have a preliminary admissions process. The students admitted under this policy will still receive a holistic review and will be admitted as normal under existing agreements with ICA. Only students who meet minimum standards for GPA and the SAT or ACT can qualify for preliminary admission. PB said that, according to the agreement with ICA, the number of students admitted under the policy shall not exceed 20% of the RSAs enrolled at the University of Washington, averaged over five years. In practice, this means that ICA may make sufficient offers to reach this percentage, as not all recruited students eventually commit to coming to the UW.

It was asked whether the policy would apply to transfer students. PB said he doubted it, because such students can enroll through normal channels. Some on the Council felt the wording of the sentence on the maximum number of students to be admitted was not clear, since it referred to "commitments" rather than students. SB made a suggested a wording change and PB said that he would make the change. DJ said that ICA has enough of a statistical history that they would be able to gauge how many offers would ultimately lead to admissions. Laura Newell worried about the administrative burden of the process, if it is to be done monthly. More generally, there were concerns whether this process would impose a burden upon the resource of the Undergraduate Admissions Office. LN asked also whether an offer of preliminary admission required a student to attend the university. PB explained that there was no requirement; rather, such offers would be an aid for recruiting. DJ noted that identifying these students would allow them to get appropriate advising.

SW made a motion to approve the Policy and Procedure of Recruited Student Athletes proposed by ICA, with the suggested change in wording, and a proviso that ICA would report back to FCAS about the effectiveness and administration of the policy. The motion was approved. PB said that he would make the requested changes in wording.

4. Honors Subcommittee

LN reported that Honors was in the process of setting a meeting time to review candidates for the President's Medal.

5. Old Business

DJ announced that further consideration of the issue of students graduating with relatively few upper-division credits required would be discussed at the next meeting. He said that Christine Ingebritsen had provided him information about departmental and college requirements at the UW, while TM would provide data on recent graduates with low upper-division credits and survey of peer standards. TM also said that he had data on discrepancies between academic program and university cumulative GPA requirements for graduation. He said that 180 students in 10 different programs had GPAs too low to graduate in their majors, though sufficient to graduate from the university. DJ said that this question would also be considered on the next agenda. Finally, DJ said that that the statement on Degree Definitions had been presented to the Senate Executive Council, but had not been reviewed by the Board of Deans. One comment from the SEC is that the definition for a BS should include a statement about "the formation of testable hypotheses." Shawn Brixey remarked that specific descriptions of disciplines and methods were exactly what the Council had edited out of the initial draft of the proposal.

6. New Business: Council Next Steps

DJ announced that he would be stepping down as chair of FCAS, since council chairs are limited to serving two years. In his stead, he has asked George Dillon to accept the chairmanship of the Council. DJ will continue serve on the Council, while the Registrar's Office, Office of Admissions and the Undergraduate Dean will continue to provide staffing support. DJ noted that since Council meets relatively frequently and deals a number of processes central to the university academic mission, it is important to maintain continuity and staffing.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.

Minutes recorded by Robert Corbett (rcorbett@u.washington.edu)

Present: *Faculty members:*

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

Ex officio members:

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

Regularly invited guests:

Corbett, R.
Mildon, T.
Ballinger, P.

Absent: *Faculty members:*

Stygall, G.

Ex-officio members:

Nyquist, J. (excused)
Trudeau, M.
Ingebritsen, C. (excused)
Wiegand, D. (excused)