

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS
FRIDAY, March 2, 2007
224 Mary Gates Hall

Chair George Dillon called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Chair's report.
 2. Approval of the February 16, 2007 FCAS minutes.
 3. Subcommittee Business:
 - Admissions and Graduation (Don Janssen)
 - SCAP (George Dillon)
 4. Old Business: MEDEX Oral Health Certificate Tri-Campus Review
 5. New Business
 6. Adjourn
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1. Chair's Report

Chair Dillon welcomed the council's new Recorder, Melissa Kane. He also noted that a copy of the SCAP report will be sent electronically to council members in the future by Jennifer Payne.

Dillon then reported on the previous day's Faculty Senate meeting. The Faculty Senate unanimously passed a proposal to allow the Secretary of the Faculty Senate to be designated by the Senate Faculty, rather than the President, for a period of five years. It also unanimously approved a proposal to drop the Distance Learning designation for Educational Outreach courses. This designation would still be retained internally within the University catalogue and website listings.

Dillon also noted that council member Shawn Brixey was having continued conflicts with the Friday meeting schedule and has asked to withdraw from his duties with the council. Dillon has asked Brixey to find a replacement for himself from the Art Department.

2. Approval of Minutes

Council members unanimously approved the February 2, 2007 FCAS minutes.

3. Subcommittee Business:

Admissions and Graduation (Don Janssen)

Council member Janssen presented an Admissions Index graph to the council illustrating the difference in GPAs of two Special Admit student groups, athletes and non-athletes. The graph followed the students' grades for first and second academic year at UW and plotted these against their Admissions Index scores.

Janssen concluded that the data results were strange. He thought that the higher grade point averages by athletes were probably due to the classes these students were advised to

take that enabled them to do well, but did not prepare them for the required courses that they needed. Janssen emphasized that this is only a preliminary report, and that he is currently trying to arrange another meeting with the Admissions Committee.

**4. Old Business: SCAP (Steve Keith)
MEDEX Oral Health certificate Tri-Campus Review**

Council member Keith reviewed old SCAP business concerning MEDEX's new program leading to a certificate in Oral Health within the existing major in MEDEX Northwest Physician Assistant Program. SCAP agreed that the program was ready to go forward, and needs approval by FCAS before going to a Tri-Campus review.

Council member Johnson remarked that the proposal should go to the Tri-Campus review with a letter stating that this is a very special case, in order to help them get it approved. A concern was expressed that bringing the proposal to a Tri-Campus review requires a certain fixed amount of time which could delay the process. Council member Keith moved approval of the MEDEX proposal and forwarding to Tri-Campus review, with the Office of Registrar crafting a letter in support of it as a special case. The motion was seconded, and approved unanimously by council.

5. New Business

FCAS discussed several issues related to College of Engineering students under new business.

The first issue addressed the College of Engineering seeking a change in the status of pre-majors from C-PRENGR & C-EXPENG to J-PRENGR & J-EXPENG (from A&S to COE). A discussion proceeded amongst council members surrounding the issues of this proposed reclassification of engineering students from the College of Arts & Sciences, to the College of Engineering. FCAS approved the proposed change.

The next issue raised concerned revising the admission and program requirements for Mechanical Engineering majors. Chair Dillon noted that at the SCAP meeting they decided that it was not a continuation policy problem for pre-majors. Council members discussed concerns about the ME department proposal to drop CSE142 as a graduation requirement for majors and replace it with AMATH301. A council member asked if CSE142 was a more challenging course, and why would a student take it before AMATH 301. Several council members discussed the differences between the two courses. Corbett raised the question whether the problem was the time to degree for the number of credits students needed to graduate.

A motion was made to approve the change in graduation requirements. The motion was seconded, and approved unanimously by the voting council.

The third issue concerned the Continuation Policy for Students with Pre-engineering Status. The College of Engineering is adding additional requirements for all pre-engineering students, in addition to the University's regulations that govern satisfactory

progress and low scholarship. Council members discussed the language of the proposed changes, and noted how the COE is attempting to work with students who, for example, might drop out of the program, but could later return. Chair Dillon noted that pre-engineering students often take no science classes in their first year. Council member Navin expressed concerns about the means and timing of notification for these students. Council members responded that the Engineering Department audits students who have not taken the basic 25 units per year of required courses. It was noted that the new policy reflects a more positive intervention, and a softer, more helpful tone. Janssen stated that the policy shift is meant to catch students who have changed direction without telling anyone, but it is not meant to preclude students from engineering.

A motion was made to recommend the proposed policy change. The motion was seconded, and unanimously approved by the voting council.

Registrar Mildon asked if FCAS would give its authority to the voice of the Registrar's Office when they contact departments and request that they correct their website course descriptions so that they accurately reflect that of the university catalogue. Mildon explained that the goal is to reduce student confusion and that some departments willingly comply, while others do not. Mildon was asked to clarify his request. He replied that he is seeking wording that states that the Registrar's Office is acting as an agent of the FCAS in upholding the legitimacy of the catalogue.

A motion was made to approve the request to grant authority to the Registrar to contact departments under the authorization of FCAS. The motion was seconded, and a correction to the request was made. Council member Wiegand noted that the wording should include not just websites, but "and other sources." Voting council members unanimously approved the motion.

Chair Dillon moved to put off the next FCAS meeting until the beginning of the next quarter. The motion was seconded, and approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

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

Present:

Professors: Cunningham, Dillon, Keith, Keil, Janssen, Johnson, Newall

Ex-officio: Sahr (standing in for Taylor), Navin, Rickerson, McManaway (standing in for Shields), Nobles

Regularly Invited Guests: Corbett, Mildon, Wiegand

Absent:

Professors: Brixey (excused)

Ex-officio: Taylor

Regularly Invited Guests: Ballinger, Winslow