

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Academic Standards

Friday, 13 October 2006
224 Mary Gates Hall

Chair George Dillon called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm.

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Subcommittee Business: SCAP; Assign new subcommittee members
2. Other Old Business: Online BSEE degree completion program
3. New Business: senioritis and revoked admits
4. Adjourn.

1. Subcommittees and Appointments

a. Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs (SCAP): October 6, 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: 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)

*** Review Tri-Campus Review Comments ***

Action Taken: 10/6/2006 – Recommend send to FCAS for review.

2. **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 alleviate pressure on faculty.

Action Taken: 5/26/06 – Hold.

SCAP would like the following issues resolved before approval – Scott to work with department

- 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?

Action Taken: 10/6/2006 – Recommend approve routine pending catalog copy changes. - MATT

- Add second paragraph to catalog copy
- Change 2) to say 10-25 additional credits in concentration
- Add a section 3) Electives from related courses to reach 60 credits.

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.

Action Taken: 10/6/2006 – Will attend October 20th meeting to discuss committee questions/concerns.

New Business:

1. **Architecture** – (ARCH-20060404) Revised program requirements for the major in Architectural Studies within the Bachelor of Arts.

Background: To replace the current system of two college electives and one upper division elective with three required electives from upper divisions courses; once elective required in each of the following three areas: 1) graphics/media; 2) history/theory; 3) building sciences/materials & assemblies/structures. The course may be selected from the Department of Architecture, the College and from across campus from an approved list.

Justification:

- Current electives options shallow due to resources.
- The new system of electives will help build critical thinking skills and strengthen the broad academic foundation student's need to pursue professional studies or careers in field.
- Students have requested "more required content" for environmental science, building systems and construction, computers, and history theory courses.

Action Taken: 10/06/06 – Recommend approve routine pending catalog copy changes. – SCOTT

- Scott to draft catalog copy that outlines degree requirements and electives.

2. **Community and Environmental Planning** – (CEP-20060501) Revised program and admission requirements for the major in Community and Environmental Planning AND change name of program from Community and Environmental Planning to Community, Environment and Planning.

Background: Requesting to add an additional application period for transfer students, a diversity requirement for graduation and to change the program name.

Justification:

- The additional application period requested is more consistent with the new holistic application review for transfer students.
- The diversity requirement is consistent with the commitment of the program to diversity as stated in the program manual.
- The program does not include coursework in environmental planning and the new proposed name is more consistent with material covered.

Action Taken: 10/06/06 – Recommend approve routine.

- Questions about what is meant by diversity requirements – but not enough to warrant holding application.

3. **Landscape Architecture** – Discuss the issue of L ARCH enforcing minimum grade requirements that have never been approved by SCAP.

Background: Landscape Architecture has been enforcing minimum grade requirements that were not approved by SCAP. It appears as if this has been an issue for a while and is causing issues with DARS.

Justification: NA

Action Taken: 10/06/06 – Recommend that FCAS send letter to department that states that they have to submit a 1503 to request the minimum GPA requirements.

4. **Communication** – (COM-20060221) Revised admission requirements for the major in communication within the Bachelor of Arts with an option in Journalism.

Background: The department wants to allow freshman to apply to the Journalism option so they can begin the earlier so get journalism internships in their senior year.

Justification: Will allow students to get in and graduate sooner in the Journalism option.

Action Taken: 10/06/06 – Recommend routine pending catalog copy changes. – MATT

- 4) Options:
 - i. A: Standard...
 - ii. B: Journalism...

5. **Chemical Engineering** – (CHEME-20060531) Revised program requirements for the major in Chemical Engineering within the Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering.

Background: The department wants to increase a core course (CHEM E 30) by 1 credit and reduce engineering electives by 1 credit.

Justification: None provided.

Action Taken: 10/06/06 – Recommend approve routine.

- CHEM E 330 application was approved by the UW Curriculum Committee to be increased to 5 credits on 6/13/2006.

6. Computer Engineering – (CSE-20060518) Revised program requirements for the major in Computer Engineering within the Bachelor of Science.

Background: The department wants to add CSE 303 to the core requirements and reduce the number of required senior elective credits for graduation. They would also like to add CSE 466 to the allowable elective course list for the CE software track.

Justification:

- CSE 303 will provide programming students with the necessary background in lower-level programming such as C, teach them how to control their operating systems and programming tools, and how to work in groups.
- CSE 466 will provide students with extensive programming experience using modern embedded systems. Embedded systems are more commonplace and the software developed for these systems has very different properties and concerns than desktop application software.

Action Taken: 10/06/06 – Recommend approve routine.

7. Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences - (ENVH-20060621) Revised admission requirements for the major in Environmental Health within the Bachelor of Science.

Background: The program would like to change the admissions requirement such that students must earn a 2.5 overall GPA, a 2.0 overall GPA in chemistry and biology courses, and a minimum 1.7 GPA in each required chemistry and biology course. The program would also like to remove language about quarterly application deadlines.

Justification:

- The program has seen a dramatic increase in enrollment and would like to better screen applicants and regulate admission to the major.
- The department accepts applications at any point students have met the minimum admission requirements and the current quarterly deadlines language is confusing to students.

Action Taken: 10/06/06 – HOLD. Need GPA clarification (point 4) from department. - SCOTT

b. Appointments to Subcommittees

Admissions: Erin S, Don J, Sue W, Laura N, Phil B, Susanna C
Honors: Tina M, Shawn B, Richard N, Richard K
SCAP: Steve K, George D, Debbie W, Jay J

2. Online BSEE Degree Completion Program

The group discussed the proposed College of Engineering's online degree. The CoE have an Electrical Engineering degree, where the last two years would be online. The College of Engineering initially thought that this was a done deal, but since there are no official online degrees, it does require FCAS approval and review. They have been given the 1503 form, but have yet to submit it, since they are deciding internally which department will control it, either Technical Communications or another department. The committee noted the past FCAS

discussion on DL designation equivalency with full-time degrees. Todd M. mentioned that there is discussion over removing the DL designation on transcripts, but still retain the ability to track delivery method.

3. New Business: senioritis and revoked admits

Phil Ballinger discussed the 23 revoked admitted students this year, who were reported on in the *Seattle Times*. He mentioned that this is not a new policy; students are admitted on a conditional basis of adequate completion of their senior year. 180 students received a letter of expectation, which noted their poor performance their senior year, and stressed the need to pick up their academic rigor for the UW freshman experience. In addition, 23 students were dropped for extreme academic circumstances; ie, dropping from A's & B's to D's and F's. Phil reported on our peer institutions: Berkeley revoked admits of 25; UCLA 70; UNC, 6. PB also mentioned that there is an appeal process, if students wish to pursue that course.

The meeting was adjourned at (3 pm). *Minutes by* (l. Whitney Thompson, Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs, iwt@u.washington.edu)

Present: ***Faculty members:***

Dillon, G.
Janssen, D.
Keith, S.
Cunningham, S.
Keil, R.
Johnson, J.

Ex officio members:

Shields, E.
Nobles, R.

Regularly invited guests:

Ballinger, P.
Mildon, T.
Wiegand, D.

Absent: ***Faculty members:***

Brixey, S. (excused)
Newell, L.

Ex-officio members: