

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS
Annual Report - Carolyn Plumb, Chair

The 2003-2004 year was a busy one for the Faculty Council on Academic Standards (FCAS). Attached is a summary of SCAP (Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs) activities, and below is a summary of the work done by the council as a whole.

Approval of new College of Forest Resources plan for a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and Resource Management

The review and approval of this new major required most of our time during October. Several other programs on campus, including the Program on the Environment and Fisheries, questioned the name of the major as well as the curriculum. I organized a meeting that included all parties, and gave them a change to air their views. In the end, FCAS approved the new major, but sent the concerns on for the Provost's consideration.

Departmental Enrollments/Capacities

Don Janssen, an FCAS member from Civil Engineering, spearheaded this project, which involved collecting data from departments in regard to their enrollments and their capacity. The thinking is that information about which departments are oversubscribed and which are not could be helpful for students. Don used some of the data collected by the Provost's Task Force on Satisfactory Progress, but also wrote an additional question, which was sent to departments by the Office of Undergraduate Education.

Satisfactory Progress/ Students Repeating Courses.

We spent a great deal of time talking about what to do in regard to students repeating courses not just once but several times. In some cases, these repeats affect the access to bottleneck courses, which, in turn, affects students' satisfactory progress. We decided that enforcing the current policy, which allows only one repeat, would be a good place to start. Tim Washburn's office is working on a change to the registration system that will allow departments to do choose one of the following for each course: (1) do nothing and allow students to automatically register to repeat a course once, (2) allow repeaters to register only 2nd and 3rd periods, and (3) allow repeaters to register only 3rd period, with an entry code. This system will be in place for registration for winter quarter 2005. Faculty and advisers were notified of the change in early May, prior to registration for autumn 2004.

Beginning summer of 2003 and through spring of 2004, I served on the Provost's Task Force on Satisfactory Progress. We drafted a report to the legislature in December and January and continued to meet throughout the year. Recommendations for policy changes to aid satisfactory progress were developed in April and May, and FCAS reviewed and commented on these recommendations.

Graduate School Coordination of undergrad program reviews and professional doctoral programs

We met with Gail Dubrow and Augustine McCaffery to talk about which professional doctoral programs FCAS should review and which the graduate school should look at. We also talked about how FCAS might work more effectively with the Graduate School in order to assure that all undergraduate programs are reviewed regularly, and that those reviews result in information exchange between FCAS and the Graduate School.

Transfer Admission Process

Because of pressure on enrollment and over-enrollment, the UW developed a new Transfer Policy and Procedure, which will include a comprehensive review process for all students rather than direct transfer. FCAS members were involved in developing the new policy and procedure, and the entire council approved the policy and procedure, including comprehensive review of 100% of transfer students. Faculty will be involved in the review process. Students who are prepared to transfer directly into a major will have the edge in the new procedure.

RCEP review

FCAS reviewed the draft of the revised RCEP process and gave suggestions/comments to the Secretary of the Faculty.

Honors

The Honors Subcommittee chose the Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior medalists as well as the President's medalist and Transfer medalist.

FCTCP and Program Approval Process

I was a regular guest at FCTCP meetings during 2003- 2004 and also met with several smaller groups in an effort to come to some agreement about a program approval process that would work for all three campuses. On one side of this thorny issue are those that interpret the Faculty Code to allow for only one approval process for all three campuses, a process that ends at SCAP and FCAS. On the other side of the issue are Bothell and Tacoma faculty, who have been approving their own programs for years and want to keep that autonomy. Early in 2004, an Executive Order required that all programs go through a tri-campus review after being approved at the campus level. I worked with members of FCTCP and FCAS to develop a procedure for implementing the Executive Order. The procedure was reviewed by FCAS and the curricular bodies at Tacoma and Bothell.

Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee

I served on the Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee during 2003-2004. This committee's discussions included the following issues: Student Learning Outcomes, both the old system and possible improvements; course fees; undergraduate advising initiatives, and recommendations for satisfactory progress.

Learning Goals Joint Statement with FCIQ

I drafted a statement supporting recent efforts to help departments establish meaningful learning goals. The statement was approved in principle by FCIQ and FCAS, and I sent a letter to President Huntsman and Provost Thorud.

Transfer Credit Policy Changes Necessitated by SHB 2382

SHB 2382 requires that Washington 4-year public institutions treat lower division transfer credit from community colleges the same as 4-year schools. FCAS approved a transition policy until the Handbook can be changed in the fall. The transition policy places a 90-credit limit on all lower division credit unless approved by the student's major adviser.