

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Academic Standards Meeting Minutes
Friday, 24 February 2006
142 Gerberding Hall

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

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Minutes
2. Subcommittee Business: SCAP, Other
3. Subcommittee Business: Honors
4. Defining Types of Degrees
5. Adjourn.

1. Minutes

The minutes for the February 10th meeting were approved by SW, and seconded by HL with no changes.

2. Subcommittee Business: SCAP

**Proposals to be addressed by the Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs (SCAP)
February 17, 2006**

1. **Electrical Engineering** — (EE-20060106). Revised Admission Requirements for the Major in Electrical Engineering within the Bachelor of Science.
Background/Justification: Requesting to reduce the number of Early Admission and Upper Division admissions prerequisites to provide additional flexibility in the program for prospective students. The deleted courses will remain as graduation requirements in the major.

Action Taken: Routine change, SCAP votes to recommend change to FCAS.

2. **Anthropology** — (ANTH-20060207). Revised Major Requirements.
Background/Justification: These changes reflect a reallocation of faculty teaching to the 100-level from the 200-level that are a result of the foundation courses initiative. The changes will give students more flexibility to complete their majors in a timely way and also to have the option of including one of the innovative new course anthropology will be offering at the 100-level as part of their major. As a result of the reallocation of teaching, the total number of sociocultural 200-level lectures will be reduced from 6 (2 per quarter) to 4. Also it brings the requirement for 200-level sociocultural courses in line with the 200-level requirement for Archaeology and Biological Anthropology, each of which requires only one 200-level course. This will allow students who wish to concentrate in the latter two areas more opportunity to take courses in their preferred sub-field.

Action Taken: Routine change with minor language edits, SCAP votes to recommend change with edits to FCAS.

3. **Interdisciplinary Visual Art** — (ART-20060203). Revised Admission and Program Requirements for the Major in Interdisciplinary Visual Art within the Bachelor of Art.
Background/Justification: Two years ago we established a new admission policy for this

degree that in practice has created bottlenecks and access issues in key undergraduate classes. This has been especially true for transfer students. This proposal simplifies the process of declaring a major in Interdisciplinary Visual Arts....

Action Taken: Routine change. SCAP votes to recommend change to FCAS.

- 4. 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 give 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: Not Routine, SCAP votes to Hold application.

- 5. DXARTS** — (DXARTS-20060104A). Revised Program Requirements for the Major in DXARTS within the Bachelor of Fine Arts. Background/Justification: The primary change being proposed for the DXARTS BFA is to require students to take a full year-long sequences in two of the four primary content areas at the core of the DXARTS curriculum (3D Motion and Graphics, Video, Sound, Mechatronics). This change brings the BFA program requirements into better alignment with the actual structure of the curriculum into these four discipline areas and sets clear parameters for student to gain significant expertise at the 400-level in at least two areas. The proposed new program requirements maintain the level of flexibility appropriate for interdisciplinary study as we do not specify which two sequences are required and allow for up to 30 additional elective credits from DXARTS or from other programs. The number of total credits within the major remains unchanged.

Action Taken: Routine change. SCAP votes to recommend change to FCAS.

- 6. DXARTS** — (DXARTS-20060104B). Revised Admission Requirements for the Major in DXARTS within the Bachelor of Fine Arts. Background/Justification: We are proposing to drop CSE 143 as a requirement for admission. CSE 142 is sufficient introduction to computer programming for application for admission to the BFA. We are proposing to require both MUSIC 120 and ART H 203 instead of giving students a choice between the two. The interdisciplinary nature of the DXARTS BFA requires students to work in several areas of the arts, thus they need a broader and deeper understanding of the history of the arts.

Action Taken: Routine change. SCAP votes to recommend change to FCAS.

7. **Italian** — (ITAL-20050725). Revised Program Requirements for the Major in Italian within the Bachelor of Arts.

Background/Justification: We are proposing a revision of program requirements for the major in Italian. Principal features of the revision: 1) Increase in required credits from 50 to 60 – this will ensure that our students come away with a more in-depth exposure to Italian language, literature and culture. 2) Introduction of a series of 4 new 300-level core courses (ITAL 341, 342, 351, 352), two of which are required for the major. 3) ITAL 470 is offered as an alternative to ITAL 401. 4) Require students to take 20 additional credits in the major (at least 10 of these must be at the 400-level, rather than the existing 15 additional credits).

Action Taken: Routine change with minor edit. SCAP votes to recommend change to FCAS.

8. **Women Studies** — (WOMEN-20060120A). Revised Program Requirements for the Major in Women Studies within the Bachelor of Arts. Background/Justification: The proposed changes are part of the department's decision to eliminate the tracks and the three-quarter long senior thesis requirement. Decoupling courses from the tracks will afford students a greater degree of flexibility when choosing courses to fulfill major requirements.

Action Taken: Routine change, however WOMEN 494 does not currently exist. Therefore, SCAP will hold application until WOMEN 494 is approved.

9. **Women Studies** — (WOMEN-20060120B). Revised Requirements for the Minor in Women Studies. Background/Justification: We propose these changes in order to match the changes in the major requirements.

Action Taken: Routine change, however as it is based on the revised program requirements for the major in Women Studies which is currently on hold pending the creation of WOMEN 494, SCAP will also hold this application.

SCAP asked FCAS about guidelines for defining types of degrees, with specific regard to BA in Biochemistry proposal. Janssen said that this question segued into the more general discussion he had proposed for the Council of providing definitions for types of degrees. He said that one reason for the discussion was to provide for having FCAS's comments on record for a program's ten-year review. He noted also that SCAP should be alert to the creation of degrees that had the appearance of being "science-lite."

3. Subcommittee Business: Honors

Laura Newell said that for the selection of the President's Medal she needed to get in touch with the Registrar's Office about who the qualifying students will be. Janssen said that more faculty were needed for the subcommittee and that Sue Woods had provided the name of Sarah Shannon. Janssen said that Newell should get a partial list of available faculty by the beginning of the spring quarter and then FCAS could find other members as needed.

4. Degree definitions

Janssen drew the Council's attentions to the definitions of the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science, as developed by Shawn Brixey and edited by FCAS at the previous meeting [the definitions are included in [the January 27th meeting's minutes](#)]. Steve Buck said that he thought the language describing the Bachelor of Arts did not fit programs in natural sciences. The "humanistic language" used in the definition better described the role of distribution requirements [also known as general education requirements]. In Psychology, the BS requires more courses in statistics and has a research requirement that the BA does not. Christine Ingebritsen said that a hierarchy was implied since more credits are required for the BS. Buck said that what depth meant in the Psychology BS was really more specialized training.

Janssen suggested the Council reverse the hierarchy. Buck noted that the BA provides more breadth and flexibility, and would more easily enable a student to double major. He also noted that students perceived the BS degree as a pre-professional or pre-graduate program. Janssen said that the language of the definition should be more encompassing, while Buck said that it should be clearer about the difference in purposes of major requirements and distribution requirements.

It was asked what kinds of requirements would positively define a BA in a natural science department, as opposed to allowing more elective either within the major or in the degree. Woods said that different outcomes would be helpful. Ingebritsen said that POE currently offers a BA but wants to move to a BS, so that there necessarily would be a different balance in programs for students. The faculty developing the programs need some guidance, but it was important to not be neutral about different programs as well. Buck noted that the advising materials for Psychology emphasize the difference between a program designed for students seeking graduate school and a less intensive research one.

Janssen said that one change in revising the definitions could be a third category for programs offering both a BA and BS. Buck noted that the advising materials for Psychology emphasize the difference between a program designed for students seeking graduate school and a less intensive research one. Wiegand said there could be a preceding paragraph that discussed distribution requirements and the goals of those.

Woods asked whether the HECB had concerns about this. Corbett said that the HECB did not; that their concerns are primarily about need for a program and possible student outcomes, but that the shaping and defining of curriculum is controlled by faculty.

Wiegand noted that it was virtually impossible to define either breadth or depth without referring to the other term. Ingebritsen said it was important to keep the discourse neutral, but to also focus on learning outcomes as a way of distinguishing programs. Janssen asked Corbett to use his notes to synthesize a revised version of the definitions for the next meeting.

The council then examined a side-by-side comparison of the BA and BS curriculae in Psychology as an example of a program with both degrees. Since he is a faculty member within the department, Steve Buck elaborated on the necessarily brief description of the programs provided by copies of catalog language. The council discussed the differences in proposed outcomes in the two programs and what courses served as decision points for students choosing between the two. Buck noted that faculty have proposed changing the BA to include an experiential element, such as fieldwork or undergraduate teaching.

There was at least a perception among some of the council that requiring fewer credits in the major lead to a diminishment of the BA, particularly when some students would fulfill electives

with lower-division rather than upper-division courses. Buck said that the issue of students graduating with low amounts of upper division credit is a university issue and separate from developing definitions for degrees. Janssen said that the Council should also discourage the creation of new academic degree programs departments from developing new academic degree programs by simply eliminating some requirements and adding electives. Navin said that experiential learning opportunities give a chance for faculty to show students how to apply their learning outside of the university. Carla Rickerson said flexibility in curriculum helps student graduate quicker, a real concern in light of state mandated limits on credit. Buck noted the undercurrent that said “if we don’t specify courses, students don’t get anything out of them.” Being more specific with electives for science BAs hurts one of their major drawing points: providing for student choice. Ingebritsen said that the descriptions of the courses probably didn’t convey their rigor the best; it is a question of “not expecting less, but expecting different.”

Janssen noted that Corbett would revise the defining degrees statement in light of these suggestions.

5. New Business: Preadmission of student athletes

Janssen said that the Athletic Department is seeking the ability to pre-admit student athletes who excel academically. Other universities have already begun to do this. There will also be an update on the new admission process as well as the Bridge program.

The meeting was adjourned. Minutes recorded by Robert Corbett rcorbett@u.washington.edu.

Present: *Faculty members:*

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

Ex officio members:

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

Regularly invited guests:

Corbett, R.
Winslow, M
Wiegand, D.

Absent: *Faculty members:*

Brixey, S.
Stygall, G.
Tripathi, A.
Montine, T.
Keith, S.

Ex-officio members:

Trudeau, M.