

**University of Washington**  
**Faculty Council on Academic Standards Meeting Minutes**  
Friday, 7 April 2006  
142 Gerberding Hall

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

**Meeting Synopsis:**

1. Minutes & Announcements
2. Subcommittee Business: SCAP, Other
3. Tri-Campus Review Comments for Minors in Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian
4. Admissions: Preliminary Admission of Exceptional Students (Woods)
5. Honors: GPA for Honors
6. New Business: Discrepancies between Departmental and University Graduation GPA (Lee)

**1. Minutes**

The minutes for the 10 March 2006 meeting were approved by SK, and seconded by SW with no changes.

**2. Subcommittee Business: SCAP**

**Proposals to be addressed by the Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs (SCAP)**  
**March 31, 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 – Debbie was working with department and will be out ~ 3 weeks.

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 a n 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 – Committee would like the following addressed by PoE...Scott to follow up.

- a) GPA requirements need to be clarified
- b) Sequencing of 100-200-300 very rigid and could possibly have enrollment implications for transfer students who would also need to complete the capstone sequence.
- c) Clarify wording for Perspectives/Experiences.
- d) Expanding options for BIOL/CHEM prerequisites.

3. **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.

-- Jennifer Payne will contact Women Studies to follow-up on when to expect a new course application for WOMEN 494.

Action Taken: 3/31/06 –Routine change, SCAP approves and forwards to FCAS

### **New Business:**

1. **Women Studies** — (WOMEN-20060120B). Revised Requirements for the Minor in Women Studies. \*\* Department has submitted a revised from.

Background/Justification: We propose these changes in order to match the changes in the major requirements. The requirement of 2 credits in WOMEN 299 is only required for majors and should be removed from the minor.

Action Taken: 3/31/06 –Routine change with amended catalog information. SCAP approves and forwards to FCAS

2. **Technical Communication** – (TC-20051206): Revised Requirements for the Minor in Technical Japanese.

Background/Justification: The Technical Japanese Program is undergoing a curriculum reform aimed at more efficient use of its teaching resources and more efficient instruction while meeting new student needs.

Action Taken: 3/31/06 –Routine change. SCAP approves and forwards to FCAS.

### **3. Tri-Campus Review**

The Tri-Campus Review comments were all positive for the Minors in Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian. One comment by Marshall Brown required a response: “Are there any other fields in which seven quarters of language study by themselves constitute a minor? Normally, I would imagine that a foreign language minor entails some work with the language, beyond basic language study. At the same time, the Baltic programs are a valuable resource, energetically managed, and I’m all in favor of supporting them. So, even if this proposal lacks parity with other programs, it might well be worth endorsing.” Terje Leiren’s response was: “In means an upper division language course in the specific Baltic language, with ESTO/LATV/LITH prefixes. Second-year language courses contain a large amount of cultural content, they are not just language study, but include the study of the cultural context for the language as well. Likewise, upper division courses (300 and 400-level) are listed as ESTO/LATV/LITH, but they are content courses, such as courses on Literature or supervised readings (done in the target language). The ESTO/LATV/LITH prefix (as NORW/DAN/FINN/SWED) indicates that the courses are taught in and/or use considerable foreign language material. The SCAND prefix is used for courses taught in English.”

Don Janssen drafted a response on behalf of FCAS, who unanimously showed support. His response was: In general, FCAS would not approve a Minor that consisted solely of foreign language classes. However, in the case of the Baltic Studies Minor, all of the upper-division “language” courses are actually culture and/or literature courses. This provides for a well-rounded Minor, even though the courses numbers would (incorrectly) suggest that the Minor consists only of foreign language classes.”

### **4. Admission: Preliminary Admission of Exceptional Students**

SW worked with LN and put together a draft for a Preliminary Admissions Guideline sheet for Exceptional Students. The goal was to introduce a broader policy to a practice that was already taking place in athletics. By identifying gifted students during their junior year of high school, this proposal would allow departments to provide guidance during that senior year and into early

entrance in to UW. These would be students accepted as early admits as freshman to a program department, such as Honors, Athletics, or Fine Arts, though LN emphasized that students would only be considered after they are referred by a department; students cannot request an early admittance to the UW. However, PB added that the University cannot offer admissions and scholarships to students that haven't applied; they can only strongly encourage gifted students to apply. There was concern from the committee over the impact on HR resources. **LN: Motion to Endorse Policy; GD seconded. Unanimous**

### **Preliminary Admission of Exceptional Students**

#### **BACKGROUND**

High school students often have a variety of exceptional talents that can be identified early while the students are a year or more away from graduating from high school. This early recognition and subsequent guidance could benefit one or more programs/departments/schools on campus. These talented students may be heavily recruited by other universities or not be counseled properly to take the right courses to be competitive for UW admission. After identifying an exceptional student, the interested UW campus group would have a greater potential of getting the exceptional student to apply, be admitted and enroll in the University of Washington if they could:

- 1) provide guidance to the prospective student with respect to specific areas that may be lacking in the student's profile, and
- 2) provide incentive to the student to address any potential problem areas identified (or to maintain the student's current level of broad achievement) and to apply to the University of Washington.

The purpose of Preliminary Admission of Exceptional Students is not to admit students that would otherwise not be likely to be admitted, but rather to recruit exceptional students and make sure that they are desirable students for admission.

#### **PROCEDURE**

The procedure for identifying and contacting exceptional high school students would be expected to vary, depending upon the program/department/school interested in recruiting the student. Specific details must be worked out with the Director of Admissions (or his designee) and can be approved only after review by the Faculty Council on Academic Standards (in their University Handbook-defined role of being responsible for Admissions Policy). These details are expected to include specific conditions that must be fulfilled for the student to actually be admitted.

#### **LIMITATIONS**

Specific limitations regarding procedures for identifying and contacting exceptional high school students will be worked out as described above. In general, offers of preliminary admission must be made before December 31 of the student's senior year in high school. Also, the number of offers of Preliminary Admission for Exceptional Students made by a specific program/department/school during a given academic year should not exceed 20% of the average number of students who enrolled in that program/department/school at the UW each year for the past five years. This number may be modified for specific groups once historical data on the success of that group's Preliminary Admission Program becomes available.

Any Preliminary Admission procedures that are developed for specific programs/departments/schools must comply with the Statement of Principles of Good Practice (SPGP) of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC).

#### **4. Honors GPAs**

President's Medal Review Committee to read transcripts: Sarah Shannon, Laura Newell, and Shawn Brixey (Susan Woods alternate)

#### **5. Old Business**

DJ recently discussed with Christine Ingebritsen and Dean Ortega about the 10 Year Review process and the questions for the charge letter. One concern that was discussed was students graduating with not enough upper division credits, since the rule surrounding upper division requirements is not set firmly. DJ discussed with TM about getting a numerical analysis on the upper-division credits taken by students who have graduated. One major in 2003-04 allowed one student to graduate with only eight credits beyond the sophomore level. Thirty-seven majors graduated one or more students with less than one full-year of upper division work. DJ mentioned that he had asked to have a survey of peer institutions conducted. TM said he already had this data, and would forward it.

#### **6. Discrepancies between Departmental and University Graduation GPA Requirements**

JL led a discussion on the discrepancies between departmental and university graduation GPA requirements. He highlighted Chemistry, which offers a BS (certified), BS, BA in Chemistry. BS Certified requires a 2.8 GPA major, 2.0 minimum for course; 2.8 overall BS 2.8 major GPA, 2.0 minimum for course; 2.8 overall; BA 2.0 GPA overall; 2.0 minimum for chemistry, math and physics. Students have not been told, until they try and graduate, that they do not meet the requirements for the BS, and are then bumped to the BA. FCAS discussed Chemistry's no intervention policy for students. Several FCAS members voiced their concern over students who had met that 2.8 GPA requirement until the very last quarter. FCAS agreed that more research needs to be done to find out how many students are disenfranchised by competing departmental an university graduation GPA requirements. TM agreed to provide an inventory of this problem:  
1. Which departments are caught in this quagmire  
2. Identify the number of problems for students.

The meeting was adjourned at 3.02 pm.

Minutes recorded by I. Whitney Thompson iwt@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 guests:***

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

#### **Absent:**

##### ***Faculty members:***

Stygall, G.

##### ***Ex-officio members:***

Trudeau, M., Ingebritsen, C., Wiegand, D.