

University of Washington  
Faculty Council on Academic Standards

Friday, 5 May 2006  
142 Gerberding Hall

Chair Don Janssen called the meeting to order at 1:42 pm.

**Meeting Synopsis:**

1. Minutes & Announcements
2. Subcommittee on Academic Programs
3. Admissions--Petitions
4. Majors with Low Upper-Division Credits
5. Majors with Cumulative GPA Requirements Greater than UW Cumulative GPA Requirements
6. New Business:

**1. Minutes**

The minutes for the 21 April 2006 meeting were approved, moved by SK, seconded by SW.

**2. Subcommittee on Academic Programs**

**Proposals to be addressed by the Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs (SCAP)  
April 28, 2006**

**Old Business:**

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: 2/17/06 - Not Routine, SCAP votes to Hold application.

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.

3/3/06 – 4/14/06 No new action; Keep on hold.

Action Taken: 4/28/06 – Keep on hold.

Debbie to invite Biochemistry to meeting on 5/12/06 to discuss expected outcomes, broader electives, GPA requirements vs. admission requirements, and FCAS guidelines for BA vs. BS.

Health Information Administration — (HIA-20060302). Revised Requirements for the Major in Health Information Administration.

Background/Justification: We propose to make the following changes in our curriculum:  
Adjust courses to expand/re-align content sequence to meet new accreditation standards from the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA).  
Consolidate selected courses to provide more cohesive coverage.  
Meet course consolidation goals to accomplish budget objectives.

Action Taken: 4/14/06 - Hold for next meeting. Scott to work with HIA to submit correct information.

Action Taken: 4/28/06 – Approved routine pending Scott getting the new form with corrected catalog language is signed.

**New Business:**

Paper Science and Engineering - (PSE-20060227) Revised Requirements for the Major in Paper Science & Engineering within the Bachelor of Science in Forest Resources.

Background/Justification: From recent student research, we have found students do not use CSE 142 java programming material in the PSE major. Instead, we found that our students could use additional skills in technical writing (TC 231), so we would like to require it (we will continue to provide TA support to TC for teaching our students). CSE 142 will be allowed as a technical elective for students choosing to do the double degree with Chemical Engineering.

Action Taken: 4/28/06 – Approved routine pending edits to catalog credit requirements per Matt.

**3. Admissions--Petitions**

DJ proposes a Class C Resolution to the Faculty Senate. After discussion, the counsel worked out the following:

The integrity of the admissions processes at the University of Washington depends upon the proper determination of the merits of each applicant. Attempts to influence that process in favor of one or more students by use of a person's community stature, promise of financial donation (or threat to discontinue financial donation) or other means is inappropriate, and is an affront to the status of the University as a Public Institution of the state of Washington.

The committee discussed how making this statement a Class C Resolution does little more than simply makes it an issue and provides a statement for people to reference. Currently, there is nothing stated anywhere that references this problem, though several units on campus have complained of the pressure. Some members were concerned over whether this was a broad enough problem to propose a resolution; others wanted to make sure that the wording did not preclude letters of recommendation. DJ asked that any more revisions to the statement be emailed to Whitney.

**4. Majors with Low Upper-Division Credits**

The group reviewed the information provided by Todd Mildon, which listed the number of upper-division credits by major. The lowest was five credits in sociology with eight in Interdisciplinary Visual Arts. The groups discussed the necessity of looking at the mean vs. the minimum, simply because the minimum could be an exception and not a trend. The group agreed that the

department chairs should be contacted and informed if their program proved to have a consistently low average of upper-division credits.

#### **5. Majors with Cumulative GPA Requirements Greater than UW Cumulative GPA Requirements**

According to a Todd Mildon's findings, currently, there are 146 students in the "at risk" category, mostly found in Biochemistry, Accounting, Chemistry, and Finance. There are currently 10 majors that have requirements that could potentially put students into this "at risk" category, though only four currently have students are caught in the quagmire. After discussion, the group concludes that the "at risk" students' option is to submit a graduation petition. DJ will draft a letter to the 10 departments, and TM will provide the list of the 10 departments.

#### **5. New Business**

DJ informed the group that Emile Petri will attend FCAS on June 2 meeting to discuss the Bridge program and any characteristics of students that typically indicate difficulty in the future.

In addition, the group discussed the membership of the Council for next year. GD will be assuming the role of chair. Remaining faculty committee members will include: SBR, GD, SK, LN, DJ, with SW, SBU, and GS rotating out. DJ asks for the committee to think of two more recruits over the summer. Must be someone involved in teaching—DJ asks that he is sent a paragraph explaining why they are interested.

Moreover, there was a motion to cancel the June 16 meeting, making June 2 the last date of FCAS to convene before the summer break. **Motion was unanimous.**

The meeting was adjourned at 3.00 pm.

Minutes recorded by 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:* Louie, H.; Lee, J.; Navin, M.

**Regularly invited guests:** Corbett, R.; Mildon, T.; Wiegand, D.

**Absent:** *Faculty members:* Stygall, G.

*Ex-officio members:* Nyquist, J. (excused); Trudeau, M.; Ingebritsen, C. (excused)