

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Academic Standards Meeting Minutes

Friday, 19 May 2006
142 Gerberding Hall

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

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Minutes & Announcements
2. Subcommittee on Academic Programs
3. Honors
4. Admissions
5. Old Business
6. New Business

1. Minutes

The minutes for the April 2006 meeting were moved for approval by SB, seconded by SK, and the approved with minor corrections.

2. Subcommittee on Academic Programs

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 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.

Recent Action Taken: 5/12/06 –Chemistry/Biochemistry Advisors to be present. Lani Stone and Mary Harty to go back and discuss changes (drop 3rd term O-Chem, Physics Lab, etc.) with faculty. Move credits to electives, which could be broadened to include coursework in fields such as Medical History and Ethics, Bioinformatics, etc.

1503 and supplement documentation to be revised and submitted for meeting 5/26/06.

New Business:

1. **American Indian Studies** - (AIS-20060315) New Major in American Indian Studies: BA.

Background/Justification: Department wants to add a Bachelors of Arts degree with a major in American Indian Studies rather than offer through General Studies.

Action Taken: 5/12/06 – Approved (Non-Routine) pending that all courses in documentation exist. To be sent to FCAS and Tri-Campus Review. Jennifer to check on courses.

Change wording in admissions #1 to say CUM GPA instead of University GPA.

2. **American Indian Studies** – (AIS-20060321) Revised requirements for the minor in American Indian Studies.

Background/Justification: To align requirements for minor more closely with the above proposed new major in American Indian Studies.

Action Taken: 5/12/06 –Approved Routine. Edit catalog language to show the courses allowed and to match major.

3. **Biochemistry** – (BIOC-20060321) Revised program requirements for the major in Biochemistry within the Bachelor of Science.

Background/Justification: Department changed course content for CHEM 220 & 221 and needs to adjust the course duplication guidelines to align with CHEM 221, 223, 237, 335, 336, & 337.

Action Taken: 5/12/06 –Approved – Recommend applications be sent to University Curriculum Sub-Committee.

4. **Chemistry** – (CHEM-20060321) Revised program requirements for the major in Chemistry within the Bachelor of Science.

Background/Justification: Department changed course content for CHEM 220 & 221 and needs to adjust the course duplication guidelines to align with CHEM 221, 223, 237, 335, 336, & 337.

Action Taken: 5/12/06 - Approved – Recommend applications be sent to University Curriculum Sub-Committee.

5. **Biology** – (BIOL-20060310) Revised program requirements for the major in Biology within the Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts.

Background/Justification: Changes made in 2003 when Botany and Zoology merged with Biology have caused a bottleneck. The department proposes changing the 3-4 class foundation courses so that students are only required to take the 1 that is the prerequisite for the upper division coursework in their option and moving the remaining credits to electives.

Action Taken: 5/12/06 – Approve Routine. Revised advising worksheets to be submitted when completed.

6. **Art** – (ART-20060228A) Revised admission and program requirements for the major in Painting and Drawing within the Bachelor of Fine Arts.

Background/Justification: The existing admissions policy implemented 2 years has created a roadblock for students (especially transfer students). Art proposes to eliminate the portfolio review requirement and to broaden the Art History 15 credit program requirement.

Action Taken: 5/12/06 – Hold – need to clarify GPA admission/program requirement. To be reviewed at next meeting. – Jennifer to contact department to inquiry about GPA requirement.

7. **Art** – (ART-20060306) Revised admission and program requirements for the major in Painting & Drawing within the Bachelor of Art.

Background/Justification: The existing admissions policy implemented 2 years has created a roadblock for students (especially transfer students). Art proposes to eliminate the portfolio review requirement and to broaden the Art History 15 credit program requirement.

Action Taken: 5/12/06 – Approved Routine.

8. **Art** – (ART-20060228B) Revised admission and program requirements for the major in Ceramics within the Bachelor of Fine Arts.

Background/Justification: The existing admissions policy implemented 2 years has created a roadblock for students (especially transfer students). Art proposes to eliminate the portfolio review requirement and the 15 credits of prerequisites. The department also proposes requiring 20 credits ART 485, increasing art studio electives to 25 (to include ART 120) and then expand the Art History program requirement to 15 credits.

Action Taken: 5/12/06 – Approved Routine.

9. **Art** – (ART-20060228C) Revised admission and program requirements for the major in Sculpture within the Bachelor of Fine Arts.

Background/Justification: The existing admissions policy implemented 2 years has created a roadblock for students (especially transfer students). Art proposes to eliminate the portfolio review requirement and the 15 credits of prerequisites. The department also proposes

changing the studio electives to 25 credits to include ART 120 and to expand the Art History program requirement to 15 credits.

Action Taken: 5/12/06 – Approved Routine.

10. **Art** – (ART-20060228D) Revised admission and program requirements for the major in Fibers within the Bachelor of Fine Arts.

Background/Justification: The existing admissions policy implemented 2 years has created a roadblock for students (especially transfer students). Art proposes to eliminate the portfolio review requirement and the 15 credits of prerequisites. The department also proposes changing the studio electives to 20 credits to include ART 120, increasing ART 428 to 15 required credits and to expand the Art History program requirement to 15 credits.

Action Taken: 5/12/06 – Approved Routine.

11. **Art** – (ART-20060228E) Revised admission and program requirements for the major in Metals within the Bachelor of Fine Arts.

Background/Justification: The existing admissions policy implemented 2 years has created a roadblock for students (especially transfer students). Art proposes to eliminate the portfolio review requirement and the 15 credits of prerequisites. The department also proposes changing the studio electives to 25 credits to include ART 120 and ART 190; and to expand the Art History program requirement to 15 credits.

Action Taken: 5/12/06 – Approved Routine.

CI reported to the Council about recent discussions that she has had with faculty on possible new majors, including Early Learning from the College of Education and an undergraduate program in Public Affairs. She said that the new Department of Global Health, which is still developing, would be proposing an undergraduate major.

DJ said that Engineering was looking at admitting freshman to an honors program in the College. Several departments in Engineering admit freshman, but this proposal would admit them to the college without committing them to specific degree program. The idea would be to provide a college-wide honors experience, along the lines of University Honors but specific to Engineering. DJ said that the program would attract certain students, but that the College would need to be clear about the program's continuation policies. CI remarked the important role of "discovery" in undergraduate education, which this proposal would foster, but also focus in a manner new to the UW. MN said that the proposal is in tune with the Provost's emphasis on early advising. CI said that is was good example of an issue dealt with by FCAS that the Provost would be interested in, and suggested inviting the Provost and Executive Vice Provost Ana Mari Cauce to future council meetings.

RC added that he had met and briefed faculty designing a major in Integrated Sciences on university and state policies and procedures for new program approval. The proposed major is intended to provide students with a substantive grounding in math and science, and then allow them to take an option in one of six science majors, and would be aimed at students preparing to get certified to teach science, or who wanted to pursue a generalist degree in science. He said he would put them in touch with OUE to consult on building the curriculum.

3. Honors Subcommittee

LN said that the Honors Subcommittee had selected President's Medalists for freshman-entry and transfer students. She commended the diversity of the applicant pool for the former, but said that the transfer pool was more uniform. The length of time transfers spend at the UW and their focus on getting a major gives them less chance to diversify. DJ said that some professionally-oriented programs report the same issues for their students.

4. Admissions Subcommittee: Preliminary Admission of Recruited Student Athletes

SW said that the admissions subcommittee had received one petition for reconsideration and that the student had been placed the student on the wait list. Given the new comprehensive admissions process, the committee had expected to see more petitions, so it was suggested that PB be asked about how public the process had been made. It was reported that the university has had at least 300 more acceptances of admission offers than expected, so it is unlikely students will be accepted from the waiting list. CI said that, likewise, Honors admission offers had been accepted at a higher rate than expected, up from 350 to 375.

5. Old Business

Proposed C Resolution on Integrity of Admissions Processes

DJ brought a reworded version of the proposed Class C resolution on the integrity of the admissions processes at the university. At the last meeting, the Council had suggested trying to encompass a variety of evaluations processes at university (including selection for majors, honors, grading, etc.) DJ had included these, but said he wanted to lead with admissions since it is the most visible process. The Council made some further wording changes. DJ said that Director of Admissions Philip Ballinger had been included in all emails about the changes. TM said that the resolution would apply to certain petition processes in the Registrar's Office. SB said that he still saw admissions part of a larger nexus of activity at the university that could be unduly influenced. CI said that the resolution gave PB guidelines. DJ asked for a motion to approve the resolution. SK made the motion, SW seconded it, and the resolution (as worded below) was then approved. DJ said that he would forward the resolution to the Provost and to the SEC in the fall. The following is the approved wording:

Resolution Concerning the Integrity of the Admissions Process

The integrity of the admissions processes at the University of Washington depends upon the unbiased determination of the appropriate merits of each applicant.

Attempts to influence those processes by use of a person's University or community stature, promise of financial donation (or threat to discontinue financial donation) or any other means that do not directly address the merits of the applicant are inappropriate and an affront to the status of the University as a Public Institution of the state of Washington. These same principles apply to all evaluations of students, including grading, petitions, applications to majors, selection for honors and awards, and disciplinary actions.

Unanimously approved by the Faculty Council on Academic Standards, May 19, 2006.

Majors with Low Upper-Division Credits

DJ said that there are twelve departments had 15% of their students graduate with less than 45 credits of upper-division coursework—less than a year’s worth of coursework. CI asked what the optimum amount should be. DJ said that depended upon the major, and how breadth and depth are balanced in the program. It was noted that time-to-degree and departmental requirements also affect how many upper-division courses students take. DJ proposed that the information be sent to Dean Ortega to be included in the particular program’s ten-year review process, and that the departmental chair be contacted to make them aware of the issue. He brought a draft letter for notifying the chair of each program (Appendix 1). JL asked about how many credits are required for a major, and whether the number could be raised. DJ said that it typically is 50, but not all courses must be in the major. CI said the problem was also one of access to upper-division classes, while DW noted that providing more slots in such courses impacts a department’s resources.

The Council had questions about how response to the letter might be gathered. SK said that such responses might be gathered before the letter was sent to the Graduate School. DJ said that he wanted more data on the issue by the June 1st meeting of FCAS as well. DW suggested that chairs be first called about the issue before a letter is sent to them.

Majors Requiring an Overall GPA Greater than 2.00 for Graduation

DJ presented a letter he proposed sending to departments which require a higher overall university GPA in than the University’s requirement of a 2.00 GPA for graduation (Appendix 2) By FCAS policy, a department may require a higher GPA than 2.00 in *courses* required to fulfill major requirements, but not a total GPA for graduation. About ten departments require a higher total GPA than 2.00. In some cases in these departments, students must switch majors in order to graduate, sometimes requiring more coursework on their part. JL asked whether SCAP had set a maximum for the GPA that a department may require for coursework presented to fulfill a major. SK said that SCAP has done so, and has asked departments to change proposed requirements to comply. DW said that departments with competitive admissions usually set minimum GPA in courses required for admission and often for continuation in the major. DJ said that he would confirm the list of departments with TM, noting that it was also important not to encourage grade inflation because of a graduation requirement. He said that he would also send a copy of the letter to the ASUW.

Definition of Upper-Division Courses

DJ noted that Political Science’s website and departmental literature refer to courses above 210 as “upper-division,” thereby creating confusion for students about what courses count as such. He presented a letter to the chair about this discrepancy. (Appendix 3) JL, who is a current Political Science major, confirmed that students and faculty often refer to 200-level courses as “upper-division.”

6. New Business

DJ said that further nominations to the Council would confirmed in the fall, as the last Faculty Senate meeting of the academic year was scheduled for May 25th. SW said that she had proposed Susanna Cunningham of Nursing to take her position. DJ noted the importance for balance amongst the colleges for representatives to FCAS since the Council deals with issues affecting the entire university.

Present:

Faculty members: Buck, S.; Woods S.; Newell, L.; Dillon, G. ; Janssen, D.; Keith, S.

Ex officio members: Ingebritsen, C.; Rickerson, C.; 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.; Trudeau, M.

Appendix 1: Upper-Division Coursework

May , 2006

To: _____, Chair, Department of _____

From: Don Janssen, Chair, Faculty Council on Academic Standards

Subject: Upper-Division Coursework

The Faculty Council on Academic Standards (FCAS) has been examining the rigor in various academic programs for a number of years. While we recognize that there are many factors that contribute to the rigor of a program, we have recently been looking at the number of upper-division courses taken by graduates of each undergraduate major. We realize that many factors affect the number of upper-division courses taken, but we also felt that in most cases a student with a degree from a four-year institution should take at least a year's worth of courses beyond the sophomore level.

We initially looked at the minimum number of upper-division credits taken by any graduate of a program, and identified over 35 different majors with one or graduates with fewer than 45 credits above the 200-level. After some discussion in which it was acknowledged that there are always some exceptions, we decided to look at programs with approximately 15% of their graduates having less than a full year of upper-division coursework (the specific parameter we used was the mean number of upper-division credits minus one standard deviation).

Your department was identified as one of the twelve that graduated a significant number of students with less than a year of upper-division coursework. I am writing you to ask your departmental curriculum committee to look at your degree requirements to ensure that the curriculum requirements are appropriate both for the major and for a department at the University of Washington.

cc: Dean _____, College of _____, Box _____
Ashley Emery, Chair, Faculty Senate, Box 351271
Donna Kerr, Secretary to the Faculty, Box 351271
Todd Mildon, Registrar, Box 355850

Appendix 2: Overall GPA for Graduation Greater than 2.00

To: _____, Chair, Department of _____

From: Don Janssen, Chair, Faculty Council on Academic Standards

Subject: Overall GPA for Graduation Greater than 2.00

It has been brought to the attention of the Faculty Council on Academic Standards (FCAS) that your department requires a cumulative University GPA for graduation that is higher than the 2.00 required by the University (Volume 4, Part 3, Chapter 14, Section 2, University Handbook). Your degree requirement may predate the last change to this section of the University Handbook, and this specific degree requirement wasn't revised as part of the bookkeeping that went along with the change.

We (FCAS) are asking you to submit a revised Form 1503:

<http://www.washington.edu/faculty/facsenate/councils/fcas/1503/index.html>

to remove your requirement of a cumulative GPA greater than 2.00 for graduation.

You may require a GPA greater than 2.00 as an admission requirement for any and all courses you wish to identify as prerequisites for admission to your major, and you may also set a graduation requirement of a minimum cumulative GPA greater than 2.00 for *courses within the Major*, but FCAS is of the opinion that the minimum cumulative GPA for graduation should not be higher than the University minimum of 2.00

cc: Dean _____, College of _____, Box _____
Ashley Emery, Chair, Faculty Senate, Box 351271
Donna Kerr, Secretary to the Faculty, Box 351271
Todd Mildon, Registrar, Box 355850

Appendix 3: Upper-Division Course Definition

May , 2006

To: Stephen J. Majeski, Chair,
Department of Political Science
Box 353530

From: Don Janssen, Chair, Faculty Council on Academic Standards

Subject: Draft Letter - Upper-Division Course Definition

It has been brought to the attention of the Faculty Council on Academic Standards (FCAS) that your department website:

http://www.polisci.washington.edu/under/u_require.html states that upper division courses in Political Science are numbered 210 and above.

The University actually has a definition of upper-division courses (attached), which says that upper-division courses are those at the 300- and 400-levels. I am writing to ask you to change the wording on your department website to avoid confusing students (especially students from other majors taking 200-level POL S courses above POL S 209 thinking that they are upper-division courses). Perhaps you can call these "subfield courses", or perhaps you will come up with a better name. I am just asking that you stay consistent with the University definition of upper-division course.

cc: Dean David Hodge, College of Arts and Sciences, Box 353765
Donna Kerr, Secretary to the Faculty, Box 351271
Todd Mildon, Registrar, Box 355850