

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON FACULTY COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS

The Faculty Council on Academic Standards met on Friday, **April 22, 2005** at 1:30 p.m. Chair Don Janssen presided.

Synopsis

1. Approval of April 8, 2005 Minutes.
2. Old Business:
 - SCAP.
 - Status Report: Transfer Credit Announcement – Bridges/Janssen.
 - Status Report: Course Level Definitions.
 - Limiting dual degrees from same college – initial feedback.
 - Dual-Degree Requirements – How to proceed?
3. New Business.
 - Special Case Exemptions for Transfer Student Baccalaureate Honors: Andrew Sorba and Alisa Admiral, Tau Sigma Honor Society (see attachment).

Approval of the minutes of the April 8, 2005 FCAS meeting

The minutes of the March 11, 2005 FCAS meeting were approved as written.

SCAP: Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs

The following proposals were deemed “routine” by SCAP at its April 1, 2005 meeting:

1. College of Forest Resources – Forest Resources (CFR-041105). Elimination of five minors. “As a part of our continuing consolidation of the College of Forest Resources, we propose eliminating the minors in Conservation of Wildland Resources, Environmental Horticulture and Urban Forestry, Forest Management, International Forestry, and Wildlife Science (five minors total). Enrollment in all these minors has been traditionally very low, and in Winter 2005, we had 11 students enrolled in all five of these minors. We are also submitting a request to create a general minor in our new major area, Environmental Science and Resource Management. With the addition of the ESRM minor, we will have two minors: ESRM and Streamside Studies. We will be examining Streamside Studies for revision later this year.” **DEEMED BY SCAP: ROUTINE**
2. College of Forest Resources – Forest Resources (CFRa-041105). Leading to a Minor in Environmental Science and Resource Management. “As a part of our continuing consolidation in the College of Forest Resources, we are proposing a new minor in our new major area, Environmental Science and Resource Management (ESRM), which will replace five previous minors. This new minor would be open to all undergraduates outside of the ESRM major, and we hope it will attract students to our upper division courses. We are allowing one service course to count as a part of the minor because we believe this adds breadth as well as aids in recruiting students to the minor. With the addition of the ESRM minor, we will have two minors: ESRM and Streamside Studies. We will be examining Streamside Studies for revision later this year.” **DEEMED BY SCAP: ROUTINE**

The following proposal, approved by SCAP, is “non-routine” because it is a new major (leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree), and will be submitted to the tri-campus undergraduate curriculum

review process. After a brief discussion concerning the various Scandinavian majors, and how this proposal fits in with their existing structure, FCAS approved the proposal.

1. Art and Sciences – Scandinavian Studies: Finnish – (FINN-111904). Leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Finnish. “The Department of Scandinavian Studies wishes to add a Finnish major to the already existing majors in the department in Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, and Scandinavian Area Studies. There is currently a Finnish minor. All courses and faculty are in place to support a Finnish major. Assistant Professor Andrew Nestingen is the primary faculty member responsible for the Finnish program, but several other faculty members currently teach courses which will be part of the major. Additionally, we have a Finnish lecturer in place who, through an agreement between the College of Arts and Sciences and the Finnish Ministry of Education, teaches Finnish second and third year language and culture courses. Several students have taken Finnish minors over the past decade but have not been able to major in Finnish. The Department sees the Finnish major as a natural addition to its offerings and completes its coverage of the Nordic/Scandinavian area.” **DEEMED BY SCAP: NON-ROUTINE (new major)**

Status Report: Transfer Credit Announcement – Bridges/Janssen

Janssen said the Transfer Credit article appeared in the DAILY. So it has now been announced both to advisers and to students. Marcia Killien, chair of the Faculty Council on Tri-Campus Policy (FCTCP) told Janssen that UW Bothell had some concerns, but Killien felt there was a misunderstanding and that, once the misunderstanding had been redressed, UW Bothell would be fine with the Transfer Credit stipulation approved by a full faculty vote.

Status Report: Course Level Definitions

Janssen reviewed the history of the course-level definitions, emphasizing that FCAS had made minor wording revisions but no substantive changes to the definitions. When those revisions were affirmed, Janssen took the Course Level definitions to Secretary of the Faculty Lea Vaughn. She is working with a group who want to discuss the definitions. Vaughn will keep Janssen up to date on that development. Vaughn will find a place for the definitions on the Faculty Senate Web site, possibly under Administrative Procedures, since it is an administrative issue. SCAP is looking into guidelines for upper-division course requirements, Janssen noted.

Continuing the discussion of upper- and lower-division courses, Newell said, “The emphasis should be on an even distribution of upper- and lower-division requirements.” The question is, she said: “Are undergraduate students getting enough lower-division requirements made available to them, so that they will be properly prepared for their upper-division courses?” She stressed that it is the 300-level courses that are mostly endangered; these courses are the first time undergraduate students get into quality smaller courses. To go from a 100-level to a 400-level course, said Newell, is “a recipe for disaster”. Janssen said, “FCAS should look at it from a full curriculum point of view. We will have Debbie Wiegand talk to us about the university course approval process in the next FCAS meeting.”

Limiting dual degrees from same college – initial feedback

Janssen said a number of Arts and Sciences faculty members “have expressed displeasure with the decision to limit dual degrees from the same college.” He said these faculty members feel that “sometimes students need to get double degrees [which may come from the same college]. “It is almost entirely an Arts and Sciences problem,” Janssen pointed out.

Dual-Degree Requirements – How to proceed?

As for possible ways of proceeding on the issue of dual-degree requirements, Janssen said, “There is no need to change the University Handbook if it is, for the most part, an Arts and Sciences issue. Students can meet the two-degree requirements under 225 credits, sometimes considerably under 225 credits. Navin and Trudeau, however, both said that the 225-credit limit can be a problem in smaller units such as theirs. Janssen said, “We need to start getting a framework for the process of deciding how to put this issue to the faculty. We could perhaps conduct a survey, and prior to that, do some intensive information gathering. We will think about this for our next council meeting. And we will try to get feedback from Arts and Sciences.” Trudeau said, “We in the smaller colleges can give qualitative feedback on students seeking dual degrees.”

Special Case Exemptions for Transfer Student Baccalaureate Honors

Andrew Sorba and Kelly Saxman, of the Tau Sigma Honor Society, joined the council to discuss special case exemptions for transfer student Baccalaureate Honors.

Janssen said, “If students do not remain full-time students, there can be financial aid and other problems.” He pointed out that the clause in the Handbook stipulates that 90 credits must be earned at the UW, 60 of which have to be graded. But some transfer students are not eligible for baccalaureate honors because they do not have enough credits.

Sorba said the ASUW Senate passed “A Resolution Regarding Baccalaureate Honors Transfer Students”:

WHEREAS the Tau Sigma National Transfer Student Honor Society is a nationwide honor society committed to recognizing the achievements of transfer students, and;
WHEREAS from 2002 to 2005, many Washington community college students with the intention of transferring to the UW were deferred admission for up to two quarters, and;
WHEREAS said deferred students were allowed to transfer an additional 15 credits over the normal limit of 90 credits for community college transfer students; and;
WHEREAS these students who chose to transfer with more than 90 credits will qualify for graduation after completing less than 90 credits at the University of Washington, and;
WHEREAS said students will thus fail to meet the University’s Baccalaureate Honors 90 in-residence credit completion requirement, and;
WHEREAS said students may otherwise meet the University’s Baccalaureate Honors requirements, therefore;
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSOCIATE STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON:
THAT the ASUW supports and encourages sunset legislation to be passed by the Faculty Senate to confer appropriate Baccalaureate Honors upon the above-mentioned transfer students who would otherwise meet Honors standards with the exception of the in-residence credit requirement.

Sorba said the ASUW would like these transfer students to be made eligible for Honors. The ASUW would like the UW awards committee to consider these students as well, and to waive the 90-credit requirement. Sorba said, “We have 270 members: 10-15 members not now eligible would qualify for Honors if the ASUW’s recommendation were to be adopted by the UW awards committee.” Janssen said the council will ask the Honors Subcommittee (that makes the selections for Baccalaureate Honors awards) to consider the recommendation. Newell – who serves on the Honors Subcommittee – said, “It’s an automatic process. We never see the

materials. We *only* look at *summa cum laude* students.” Janssen said, “We can ask the UW to look at deferred transfer students along with the others.” Keith said, “It is all right to use only the 75 credits; but do not include the 15 they earned elsewhere.”

Sorba said, “We decided to let *you* people decide what to do.” Navin said, “I agree with Steve [Keith]: If transfer students come here and do well, that’s fine. Why go back and look at community college grades?” Newell said, “We do not look at community college grades in the Honors Subcommittee.” Navin said, “This resolution looks fine.” Newell said, “This will only be a temporary situation. In a couple of years, this problem will no longer exist.” Sorba said, “Also, students are in this situation through no fault of their own.”

Janssen drafted the following language for consideration by the council:

A MOTION WAS MADE TO SUPPORT THE ASUW “Resolution Regarding Baccalaureate Honors Transfer Students” WITH THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE:

“The University of Washington will consider deferred admission transfer students admitted no later than Spring Quarter 2005, with 75 or more University of Washington credits, for Baccalaureate Honors even though they have fewer than 90 UW credits. Only the grade point for UW credits should be looked at.”

THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE FACULTY COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS.

Next meeting

The next FCAS meeting is set for Friday, May 6, 2005, at 1:30 p.m., in 36 Gerberding Hall.

Brian Taylor
Recorder

PRESENT: *Professors* Janssen (Chair), Keith and Newell;
Ex officio members Navin, Richards and Trudeau;
Guests Andrew Sorba and Kelly Saxman: Tau Sigma Honor Society.

ABSENT: *Professors* Buck, Labossiere, Montine, Reusch, Simon, Stygall, Tripathi and Woods;
Ex officio member Bridges, Nyquist, Pitre, Siddiqui, Washburn and Wiegand;
Regular guest Robert Corbett, Office of the Provost, Coordinator of New Programs.