

**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON**  
**FACULTY COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS**

The Faculty Council on Academic Standards met on Friday, **May 16, 2003** at 1:30 p.m. Chair Carolyn Plumb presided.

**Synopsis**

1. Approval of the minutes of the May 2, 2003 FCAS meeting.
2. SCAP: CFR (College of Forest Resources) proposal.
3. President's Medalist legislation.
4. Enrollment Caps – continued discussion.
5. Academic Integrity – continued discussion.
6. Draft of FCAS Recommendations to Improve Access to Majors – continued discussion.

**Approval of the minutes**

The minutes of May 2, 2003 were approved as amended.

**Carolyn Plumb returns as FCAS Chair for 2003-2004 academic year. The Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs – SCAP – needs a new chair and new members for 2003-2004.)**

Plumb said she has agreed to chair FCAS for the 2003-2004 academic year. (This news was greeted with enthusiastic approbation.) Plumb said the Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs (SCAP) will need a new chair and new faculty members. She said anyone who is interested in serving on SCAP could contact her by phone or e-mail.

**SCAP: CFR (College of Forest Resources) proposal**

SCAP has not yet considered the Environmental Science and Resource Management proposal (ENVSCI-040403) from the College of Forest Resources. (The dean of the College of Forest Resources will visit FCAS at the May 30, 2003 council meeting.)

Janssen said there “may be a glitch” in the RCEP process with this proposal, and that Chair Plumb may wish to contact the Secretary of the Faculty to determine if we should go through the SCAP process at this time, or wait until any revisions caused by the RCEP process have been made. Kenney pointed out that the Biology proposal (BIOL-121302), combining the departments of Botany and Zoology and the Biology Program, is proceeding comfortably through the RCEP process. Corbett noted that “this has to go through the HEC Board as well.”

The CFR proposal, condensing six majors into one, is obviously a proposal requiring close scrutiny by SCAP, RCEP and the HEC Board. Wiegand said, “We want to get information out to people now.” She said there is not much change in the general education requirements. But there are new major core requirements. And their desire to have “embedded minors” – instead of “options” – needs to be looked at. Washburn said, “The FCAS policy is not to approve minors within majors.” Corbett said, “The change in the curriculum is in the way that FCAS has been promoting. It's hard to tell what kind of attachment students have to the names of the majors. The degree title (B.S. in Forest Resources) remains the same. As with options, the proposed minors would be transcribed too.”

Washburn said, “A concern is that the number of degrees granted each major is very small. The way it will be recorded is what's changing.” Buike asked, “Do they really mean ‘embedded minor’ or ‘option’?” Kenney said, “It *should* be ‘options’.”

### **President's Medalist legislation**

Plumb noted that the President's Medalist legislation passed at the Faculty Senate Meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The excellent work of Laura Newell and Tim Washburn, in speaking on behalf of the legislation, was commended by the council. Newell said, "We need to meet as a committee and see how best to do this process. We need to get the proper procedure." Washburn, asked if the legislation would go into effect this academic year, said, "It will be referred to the faculty this spring, and they will have a 21-day response period. The legislation is effective 21 days after publication unless 5% of the faculty raise objections to it. If approved, the new medal will be awarded first in spring 2004."

### **Enrollment Caps**

The question was asked: Should the council suggest that departments develop criteria for enrollment caps? Janssen suggested placing the following question on the 1503 form: "How many students can you accommodate in your new programs or in your major changes?" He said this would give the council valuable data.

Washburn said the Provost's Office could be asked to collect information on enrollment in departments. Janssen said, "We need to get departments thinking about their enrollment capacities." Newell recommended comparing "back data to current enrollment." Washburn said the larger and well established departments will not be going through the new program approval process. He said departments could be asked how many degrees they expect to award in a particular year. "We've tried to ask this question before, but it's difficult to get a response." Woods said, "I like asking the provost to get involved in this."

Corbett said, "We could put it on the Website as part of the 'rationale' and 'current resources.' You could flag it on the Website: 'FCAS wants this information.'" Washburn said two essential questions should be asked of departments: "1) What's your current enrollment?; and 2) What's your enrollment capacity?" He noted that George Bridges [Dean of Undergraduate Education] said that declaration of major and delay in getting into major are two big concerns in this issue. Plumb said, "I propose that Robert Corbett work on a statement regarding enrollment capacities for the Website; meanwhile, I will work on drafting a memo to the Provost, asking him to collect information from the departments."

### **Academic Integrity**

The council agreed that it would like to send a statement to Gus Kravas, Vice Provost / Special Assistant to the President for Student Relations, who spoke to the council about plagiarism and academic integrity at the April 18, 2003 FCAS meeting.

Woods said, "I thought Kravas was normalizing plagiarism at the University." Labossiere said he had a similar impression from Kravas's remarks. Buike said, "It *did* sound philosophical instead of action-oriented. It's a first strike until it gets to his office. Anything at the college or departmental level doesn't seem to matter. I'm *for* the 'honor code,' but that's not sufficient."

Plumb said, "Our approach here [at the UW] is decentralized. We're encouraged to deal with this at the local level. This problem needs to be tracked." Buike said, "Peer pressure from students doesn't help [with issues of plagiarism] because students don't *care* if it doesn't affect them personally. Are students told about this when they first come in to the University?" Wiegand said, "No. They are told about a number of issues, but this isn't one of them."

Buike said, "George Bridges suggested to faculty that *they* are responsible for students' behavior." Kenney said, "There's a section in the University Handbook that defines plagiarism quite well." Wiegand said, "Only *now*, for the first time, will we see all new students at Orientation [in Autumn Quarter 2003]."

Newell said, “We could pass out something to students at the beginning of a course that addresses plagiarism [what constitutes plagiarism, and what its consequences are].”

Plumb said, “We could recommend that the issue of plagiarism be addressed in Orientation; and we could recommend that faculty include a statement about plagiarism and academic integrity in their syllabi. What about addressing the issue of penalties for academic misconduct?”

Washburn said, “This issue is central to this council’s mission. There should be a subcommittee to form a recommendation to bring to the full council.” Plumb said a recommendation on academic integrity would be one of the first items of business for Autumn Quarter 2003. Wiegand said, “We could perhaps make a step in that direction this year for Orientation.” Corbett said, “There should be outreach to graduate students too.”

### **Draft of FCAS Recommendations to Improve Access to Majors**

Wiegand said, “We got feedback from two advisors – favorable responses – regarding the Admission Prerequisite Courses to Major.” Kenney said, “We could say, #1 of the ‘Guidelines for Admission Prerequisite Courses to the Major,’ that, in most cases, admission course prerequisites ‘*would* apply to general education prerequisites if the student....’, to allow for greater flexibility.” Washburn asked, “How much flexibility does a student need?”

It was suggested that the following wording could be added, or something like it: “....or it is possible to complete the prerequisites within one quarter of transfer.” Washburn said, “A department could *provisionally* admit a student if the community college did not have available the right admission course prerequisites.”

Wiegand said, “Most languages offered here are *not* available at community colleges. If a student wants to major in, say, Chinese or Japanese, there are no courses available until s/he gets to the UW.”

The council found #3 in the draft of the recommendations to be fine as it is. It was suggested that #4 could say: “10-15 credits, with no more than 20 specifically required credits.” And it was suggested that an added #5 could stipulate that departments are to justify any major that requires an overall GPA above 2.0

Plumb said, “We’ll talk about this more at our next council meeting.”

### **Next meeting**

The next FCAS meeting is set for Friday, May 30, 2003, at 1:30 p.m., in 142 Gerberding Hall.

Brian Taylor  
Recorder

**PRESENT:** *Professors* Plumb (Chair), Buike, Fan, Janssen, Kenney, Labossiere, Newell and Woods;  
*Ex officio members* Wiegand and Washburn;  
*Regular guest* Robert Corbett, Coordinator of New Programs.

**ABSENT:** *Professors* Simon and Stygall;  
*Ex officio members* Adams, Bridges, Croft, Gerhart, Liston, Morales and Ver Steeg.