

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS

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

Synopsis

1. Approval of the minutes of the May 16, 2003 FCAS meeting.
2. SCAP: CFR (College of Forest Resources) program changes. Visit from Dean Bare and others.
3. Update on Undergraduate Advisory Council.
4. Update on gathering information regarding enrollment capacities.
5. Draft of FCAS Recommendations to Improve Access to Majors – continued discussion.
6. Summer Bridge Program.
7. FCAS Annual Report: SCAP Annual Report.
8. New Student Orientation.

Approval of the minutes

The minutes of May 16, 2003 were approved as written.

SCAP: CFR (College of Forest Resources) program changes. Visit from Dean Bare and others

1. College of Forest Resources – Environmental Science and Resource Management (ENVSCI-040403).

New Major. “This proposed new major combines elements of six previous majors in the College of Forest Resources (CFR). The four new core courses (proposed) will provide all new majors with foundational concepts. The 35 CFR general credits will allow students to focus their specific education in existing specialized areas of the college or to have a broader experience across the environmental and natural resource sciences.

Dean Bruce Bare, Linda Brubaker, Robert Edmonds and Michelle Trudeau, from the College of Forest Resources, visited the council to discuss CFR’s proposed new major, a “non-routine” proposal about which SCAP had some questions, and which is currently undergoing the RCEP process. (This is the third proposal to undergo the RCEP process, the others coming from Education and Biology.)

Plumb said to those visiting from the College of Forest Resources, “Your proposal is going through the RCEP process because it eliminates five majors, though it does not eliminate a degree.” Woods said one question that SCAP has about the proposal concerns its having minors instead of options within majors. Trudeau said, “We haven’t touched the six minors we have in the program; they might need more than the 35 credits.” Dean Bare said, “Two of our six minors have no majors. We’re not recommending changes in minors. And there are no options in the new majors.”

Janssen said, “If you had one major and a series of options, that might work best, semantically.” Buike said, “And that is transcribed, too.” Bare said, “The problem is, we’re trying to get *away* from options.” Brubaker said, “We wanted to get away from narrow classifications (such as options), and move towards a broader, increasing integration. ‘Options’ would likely get us *stuck* in only our current specialized areas. Our curriculum committee discussed this a lot. The proposal as we conceive it, without options, would allow students to specialize in a variety of

ways, and faculty to come together in new and flexible combinations. The faculty approved that the major should have no transcribed options at this time.”

Buik said, “Students outside the college could apply for the minor.” Plumb said, “You would have CFR minors for transcribed non-majors. You could do that. Minors and options are transcribed. But minors are more fluid. You could see how this goes in a couple years, and maybe go with options at that time. The bigger picture involves consolidation, efficiency, and cross discipline interaction between faculty and students.”

Bare said, “The national tendency is moving in this direction. We’re trying to retain currency: to offer a broader undergraduate education with specialization at the graduate level. For example, we are proposing a Masters Degree in Environmental Horticulture which will have a societal, industry-based element.” Brubaker said, “There are so many interconnecting demands now. The boundaries between disciplines are disappearing. Our direction allows us to focus on those current problems. We’re addressing University and outside changes both. Our new major doesn’t *channelize* people. It’s more fluid.”

Asked about feedback from students, Brubaker said, “There is one undergraduate student and one graduate student on our committee, and other students have been consulted. In addition, we’ve had statements of support for the program from about ten different students.” Trudeau said, “The students I’ve spoken with are excited.” She added, “Over half of our students are transfers, and this program will be especially good for those students.”

Brubaker said, “I think what *matters* is less the title on the transcript than the courses themselves: what students can show they’ve taken and learned.” Plumb said, “Changing to a ‘concentration’ or a ‘pathway’ that is *not* transcribed is what you want to do. You would save the word ‘option’ for a more structured program.”

Woods said SCAP is satisfied with the proposal as it is currently presented if the minor is available only to students outside of CFR. Today’s discussion resolved satisfactorily the questions that SCAP wished to address to the College of Forest Resources.

Plumb said the RCEP process will continue through the Fall on the CFR proposal. “We’ll have to return to this proposal again in the Fall once the RCEP process is complete.”

The following proposal was deemed “routine” by SCAP:

2. School of Medicine – School of Medicine (MEDSCH-031803). Revised Major Requirements. “The

School of Medicine reviewed the hours and credits awarded to the human biology courses offered in

the first two years of the undergraduate (medical student) curriculum for compliance with UW

guidelines for awarding credit. The changes proposed reflect the application of UW guidelines to

actual and outside hours in the courses for determination of credit. The change also reflects the

addition of a required preceptorship in the first year for 1 credit, and a course in Problem Based

Learning in the second year for 3 credits.”

Update on Undergraduate Advisory Council

Plumb gave a brief update on the Undergraduate Advisory Council, on which she serves with – among others – George Bridges, Dean of Undergraduate Education, FCEO Chair Steve Buck, and FCET Chair Kimberlee Gillis-Bridges.

Plumb said there will be a *new* “new Student Orientation” in autumn 2003. There will be two Student Orientation sessions: a brief one-day session in summer and a three-day session in autumn. A major change in the 2003-2004 academic year will be to start advising earlier in the year: to find better pathways for students, and to get students started on those pathways earlier and with greater focus.

Plumb said a bill has been signed by Governor Locke requiring the state’s institutions of higher learning to take measures to enhance satisfactory progress to graduation, and to report to the Higher Education Coordinating Board by January 2004. The HECB will compile reports from all state institutions and report to the legislature in March 2004.) The University will have a committee on satisfactory progress co-chaired by George Bridges and Rusty Barcelo, Vice President of the Office of Minority Affairs. Don Janssen has volunteered to serve on that committee.

Plumb said the Undergraduate Advisory Council noted that classroom use and scheduling “has become a nightmare.” Buck has asked for an evaluation of scheduling. Plumb is part of a focus group that is looking at classroom support services. Newell said a Provost’s Office committee looked at classroom facilities two years ago, and sent out a report based on its findings. “They checked our rooms, and sent a directive about distributing classrooms internally. It would be a shame to replicate that effort,” said Newell. Plumb said she would check on the Provost’s Office committee’s report. She said she told the Undergraduate Advisory Council “what we’re doing [in FCAS].” Plumb said the Advisory Council would meet once more this academic year. “If you have any input, you can E-mail me,” she added.

Update on gathering information regarding enrollment capacities

Plumb said Robert Corbett worked on a statement for the Academic Programs Website, and she worked on a memo to the Provost, regarding enrollment capacities. A draft was sent to Faculty Senate Chair Sandra Silberstein and Vice Chair Doug Wadden, and Silberstein talked to Debra Friedman. It turns out that a lot of the information “is already out there.” Silberstein recommended that Plumb talk to Friedman. “I think the information there *now* is about enrollment, but *not* about capacities,” said Plumb.

Draft of FCAS Recommendations to Improve Access to Majors

Plumb said, “Tim Washburn could not be here today so we will look at Tim’s draft of Guidelines for Access to Majors at our last meeting on June 13th.”

Summer Bridge Program and SOUL

Laura Newell asked if the Council could get an update on progress of the Bridge students. Plumb agreed to contact Tim Washburn to see if he could bring any information to the June 13th meeting. Cathy Beyer, of the Office of Educational Assessment – who has been involved with the Study of Undergraduate Learning (SOUL) – will be invited to attend the meeting as well.

Plumb said the council was asked to look at the progress of the Summer Bridge Program. She said Washburn mentioned that he would ask some students who have gone through the program to join the council for the meeting on the 13th. Cathy Beyer, of the Office of Educational Assessment – who has been involved with the Summer Bridge Program – will be invited to attend the meeting as well.

FCAS Annual Report / SCAP Annual Report

Plumb will be preparing her FCAS Annual Report on the council's highlights and areas of concentration in the 2002-2003 academic year. And Woods will be preparing her SCAP Annual Report, highlighting the key issues of the academic year addressed by the Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs.

Academic Integrity

On the issue of Academic Integrity, Plumb said, "Something needs to go to departments on this, perhaps a memo from George Bridges." Buike said, "Have faculty specifically address this in their classes, especially with their new students. Have them stress the importance of academic integrity and let students know what punishments result from plagiarism and from any abuse of academic integrity." Newell said, "Someone from George Bridges' office could go to departmental faculty meetings."

Next meeting

The next FCAS meeting is set for Friday, June 13, 2003, at 1:30 p.m., in 36 Gerberding Hall.

Brian Taylor
Recorder

PRESENT: *Professors* Plumb (Chair), Buike, Fan, Janssen, Labossiere, Newell and Woods;
Regular guest Robert Corbett, Coordinator of New Programs.
Guests Bruce Bare (Dean), Linda Brubaker, Robert Edmonds and Michelle Trudeau (College of Forest Resources).

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