

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

The Faculty Council on Academic Standards met on Friday, **November 19, 2004** at 1:30 p.m. Chair Don Janssen presided.

Synopsis

1. Approval of the minutes of the November 5, 2004 FCAS meeting (see attachment).
2. New Business.
 - Transfer Credits Legislation Justification (to be handed out at meeting)
 - FCAS Schedule for Winter Quarter 2005.
3. Reports.
 - Report to Provost on Academic Progress of UW-Seattle Undergraduates – Debbie Wiegand.
 - Senate Executive Committee (SEC): Council Chair Voting Rights; Student Athletes.
 - Lower-Division and Upper-Division Credit Requirements – Tim Washburn.
 - All-UW Website Listing All Degrees Available at All Three Campuses – Don Janssen.
 - Presidential Tri-Campus Task Force Retreat Follow-up

Approval of the minutes of the November 5, 2004 FCAS meeting

The minutes of the November 5, 2004 FCAS meeting were approved as amended.

Transfer Credits Legislation Justification (to be handed out at meeting)

The one-page Transfer Credits Legislation Justification was distributed to the council. Janssen noted that he received feedback from the Faculty Council on Tri-Campus Policy (FCTCP) at that council's meeting on November 18th. The council objected to the word "petition", preferring less formal language. And the council thought the wording about only admitting 90 credits sent a negative message to community colleges. Janssen agreed to adding the language "prior to admission to a major" in Section 6. B. The council suggested emendations to the following sentence, adding #'s 1, 2, and 3 to B. This language, said Janssen, "does not change the spirit of our [FCAS's] language; it softens the language." Wiegand, however, suggested that the language does not keep the spirit of FCAS's proposed language. Washburn noted that there is a difference between acceptance of the course and accepting the credits. Janssen said, "Our council [FCAS] wanted to make sure, in its proposed language, that the student initiates the credit transfer."

Janssen read out the language of the revised "friendly amendment" from FCTCP (cf. the "final Credit Transfer Legislation" that has been sent to the council for the full wording of the proposed legislation). Section 6. B. now reads: "B. The University of Washington will accept in transfer toward a bachelor's degree no more than 90 lower-division credits prior to admission to a major. After a student has been admitted to a university major, additional lower-division transfer credit may be allowed when: 1) the student requests the credit transfer, 2) the credit transfer advances the student toward an academic degree, and 3) the transfer is approved by the student's academic unit."

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE REVISED WORDING OF THE "FRIENDLY AMENDMENT" FROM THE FACULTY COUNCIL ON TRI-CAMPUS POLICY (FCTCP), IN THE TRANSFER CREDIT LEGISLATION PROPOSED BY THE FACULTY COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS (FCAS). THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Janssen will note in the memorandum explaining the legislation that FCAS accepted FCTCP's "friendly amendment". Washburn said if the legislation passes in the Senate, Admissions "could have it in place by Spring Quarter 2005."

FCAS Schedule for Winter Quarter 2005

The council agreed on the following schedule for Winter Quarter 2005:

SCAP	January 7	1:30	36 Gerberding
FCAS	January 14	1:30	36 Gerberding
SCAP	January 21	1:30	36 Gerberding
FCAS	January 28	1:30	142 Gerberding
SCAP	February 4	1:30	36 Gerberding
FCAS	February 11	1:30	36 Gerberding
SCAP	February 18	1:30	36 Gerberding
FCAS	February 25	1:30	142 Gerberding
SCAP	March 4	1:30	36 Gerberding
FCAS	March 11	1:30	36 Gerberding

(Note: The January 28 and February 25 FCAS meetings will be held in 142 Gerberding Hall. Room 142 will be used by the Board of Regents or by administrative offices on all other Fridays in Winter Quarter.)

Report to Provost on Academic Progress of UW-Seattle Undergraduates – Debbie Wiegand.

Wiegand distributed the Report to the Provost prepared by the Task Force on the Academic Progress of UW-Seattle Undergraduates" entitled "Academic Progress of UW-Seattle Undergraduates". She spoke today about Section VI. of the Report: "Remedies and Implications".

Section VI. contains the following opening statement: "The University must ensure that its policies are sensitive to differences in students' backgrounds, learning styles, and access to resources. Because some students experience greater difficulty making academic progress than others, the University must thoughtfully consider how the remedies outlined in this report affect students differently."

With respect to restricted access to high demand gateway courses, the Report recommends that "every effort should be made to increase access" to these courses. To that end, the Task Force recommends that the University:

- Continue to improve enrollment management strategies ("Make a smoother process", said Wiegand, "and perhaps make these decisions earlier?");
- Reduce repetition of courses ("FCAS took care of this; it's now in place.");
- Establish prerequisite grades for courses offered in sequence ("Some departments do this; but it could be required for all such courses that a student get a certain grade before moving on in sequenced courses. A certain percentage of a mean grade point could be required, or some other specified standard that had to be met.");

With respect to restricted access to high-demand majors, in the absence of permanent increases in faculty lines for impacted programs, the Task Force recommends four strategies:

- Ascertain whether non-tenure faculty (lecturers) with term appointments could meet the instructional needs of majors for the near term;
- Enhance academic advising for second-year students, directing pre-majors to fields other than high-demand programs when appropriate;
- Continue the OMA Academic Development Initiative to enhance developmental advising and career planning with emphasis on options to high demand majors (This and the previous strategy are – or would be – funded by temporary money from the Provost's Office. The recommendation

- is that these efforts be enhanced and continued, and that advisers continue to consult with students, and initiate the process to get these students into majors. Wiegand said, “This strategy is working well, and the evaluations of this program suggest that it is extremely successful.”);
- Initiate a discussion with competitive departments to explore multiple criteria for admission (“By multiple criteria”, Wiegand said, “we mean not just using the GPA, but going beyond the GPA in the evaluation. This needs discussion at a George Bridges-type level.”).

Regarding challenges in academic advising, the Report suggests that “effective and accessible academic advising is essential to improving students’ progress to degree.” To enhance academic advising, the Task Force recommends the following measures:

- Complete a major self-study and external review of undergraduate advising, including advising in the Gateway Center, the Office of Minority Affairs, and all departmental advisers (Susan Jeffords is setting up a working group, Wiegand noted. Advisers will be interviewed, and student reviews will be studied. This is in preparation for an external review.);
- Institute electronic processes to monitor student academic progress to degree (“We have a degree audit system,” Wiegand noted, “but it can be improved.”);
- Institute mandatory advising for students on academic warning and probation (“Students are not required at present to see an adviser; we would ask them to see an adviser if their cumulative GPA is down. Some departments have a process for this, but some students are not in a department. We will call students and invite them in for consultation.”);
- Establish and require continuing education/training and development for all academic advisers (“In the Task Force, an inconsistency of advising across campus was noted. We’re decentralized; each department decides on its own criteria for training and the role of its advisers.”);
- Establish a system that improves the flow of important information to all advisers and regularizes opportunities for cross campus adviser discussion of issues and consensus building (Wiegand said, “The Undergraduate Advisers’ Council, composed of 11 groups, meets once a month. Each representative is responsible for gathering input and bringing it to the table. There are 180 undergraduate advisers at the UW.”);

As regards the accumulation of pre-college credits, the Report notes that “while transfer credits from two-year and other four-year educational institutions (including Running Start credits) should continue to count toward students’ academic progress, the Task Force recommends establishing a credit bank for selected other pre-college credits. These credits – AP, IB and College-in-the-High-School credits only – would not count toward academic progress unless students, at their discretion, choose to use them toward the completion of a degree program (“The Credit Bank idea is that students and advisers can pull out credits if they satisfy requirements towards a degree.”).

As for accumulation of credits for experiential learning, the Task Force recommends “that no more than 30 credits earned in foreign study, undergraduate research, public service internships, and service learning be exempt from academic progress totals, if those types of experiences are not established parts of their programs of study (“Up to 30 total credits in all categories could be exempted.”).

With respect to multiple majors/multiple degrees, the Task Force recommends that the University institute a formal approval process for the declaration of a second major or degree (“The issue here is whether or not there should be a restriction on declaring a second major or degree,” said Wiegand. Janssen said a working group could be set up that would include several students, and that the working group “could rely heavily on the ASUW” in its discussions. Washburn said the legislature is encouraging dual enrollment to move students through school more quickly.).

Senate Executive Committee (SEC): Voting Rights for Council Chairs; and Academic Progress of Student Athletes, and Special Admit Student-Athletes

Janssen said the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) now consists of “a few faculty members (group reps) and an administrator with voting rights, and a lot of council chairs without voting rights.” Council chairs do not have voting rights in SEC, however. Secretary of the Faculty Lea Vaughn is proposing that council chairs be accorded voting rights.

Janssen distributed a “Fact Sheet” on the UW Department of Intercollegiate Athletics (11/1/04). He observed, “In general, the Athletic Department doesn’t look bad.” He pointed out that the department, in considering scholarships for student-athletes, “now looks at graduate rate and academic progress rate: student-athletes must complete 12 credits per quarter, on average, and must maintain an academic level needed to be eligible to continue to compete athletically. The overall student-athlete GPA was 2.94 for Autumn 2003, 2.97 for Winter 2004 and 2.97 for Spring 2004 (general student population overall GPA was 3.12). In the most recent graduation rates report from the NCAA, the class of student-athletes entering school during the 1997-98 academic year graduated at a 68% rate compared to the general student population at 71%. Student athletes from the same class who exhausted their eligibility at the UW graduated at a rate of 90%. There are well over 500 scholarship student-athletes at the UW, and 659 total student-athletes. There is a new NCAA measure for Academic Progress Rate; at the UW, the percentages range from 100% in women’s volleyball to 91% in men’s baseball and basketball and 92% in football. The percentages are deceptive; 91% is exceptionally low in this new measure.

The new Athletic Director, Todd Turner, is asking for a 20% increase in special admits of student-athletes, which would raise the current number of 100 to 120. These would largely be in the “problem sports”. Though Washburn noted that “some of these students [special admits] simply come in late.” He said the high-risk group is limited to 30 student-athletes, and added: “We want to keep that number at 30.”

Lower-Division and Upper-Division Credit Requirements – Tim Washburn

Economics, Chemistry and Biology are among departments that have a surprisingly low number of upper-division credit requirements. Washburn said, “It’s surprising that a large department would not require more upper division credits.” But for the most part, a recent report shows, departments across the University have appropriate lower- and upper-division credit requirements.

Janssen said SCAP might look at this issue, and make recommendations, if necessary. Washburn said the report could be forwarded to the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee. Questions posed were: How do you treat new applications?; How do you think about 300-400 level requirements?; and: Should students not be required to take a certain amount of upper-division credits? Janssen said a general discussion could take place on this issue at the next council meeting.

All-UW Website Listing All Degrees Available at All Three Campuses – Don Janssen

Janssen said FCTCP liked the idea of an all-UW Website listing all degrees available at all three campuses of the University. FCTCP did suggest that whoever put up the site would want to include the Graduate School, and would need to get the permission of the Graduate School. And a question to consider, FCTCP suggested, is whether or not to include certificates. Washburn said, “If you list degrees alongside each other, there could be possible issues of comparability. And you’d want to convey to students that, if they don’t get into a particular program at one campus, they may be able to get into an alternative program at another campus, if such a program exists.” Janssen said, “Think about this idea for a possible Website.”

Presidential Tri-Campus Task Force Retreat Follow-up

Janssen said he very much enjoyed the Presidential Tri-Campus Task Force Retreat at the Salish Lodge at Snoqualmie Falls. He would like to be involved with any review that occurs as a result of the retreat. And he wants to help make certain that whatever the Board of Regents decides to do in phase two (in large measure, in response to the Task Force report from the retreat) is beneficial to all three campuses.

Next meeting

The next FCAS meeting is set for Friday, December 3, 2004, at 1:30 p.m., in 36 Gerberding Hall.

Brian Taylor
Recorder

- PRESENT:** *Professors* Janssen (Chair), Buck, Keith, Labossiere, Montine, Wiley and Woods;
Ex officio members Richards, Trudeau, Washburn and Wiegand;
Regular guest Robert Corbett, Coordinator of New Programs.
- ABSENT:** *Professors* Newell, Reusch, Simon and Stygall;
Ex officio members Bridges, Navin, Nyquist, Pitre and Siddiqui.