

**Faculty Council on Academic Standards**  
**2016-2017 Annual Report**  
Submitted by Sarah Stroup, Chair

**Summary:**

During the 2016-2017 academic year, the Faculty Council on Academic Standards (FCAS) met sixteen times in regular meetings, conducting its routine business of approval of new (or changed) undergraduate degrees, majors and minors for the University of Washington Seattle campus; evaluation of admissions and graduation requirements; and the selection of honors medalists and GPA cutoffs. Details of all of these actions may be found in the meeting minutes, which are located on the council's page on the UW Faculty Senate website. In addition to the routine business outlined above, the following non-routine business was conducted

Major topics the council worked to address and/or completed during the year include:

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❖ **College of Engineering shift to Direct-to-College admissions**

The College of Engineering (CoE) had been working on a Direct-to-College proposal for the past two years. This proposal—the largest and most complex FCAS has wrangled in past memory (and comprising 11 1503 forms)—first came to FCAS (through SCAP) in 2015 – 2016; Patricia Kramer and I continued work with CoE over the Summer of 2016, and at the start of the Autumn quarter, this proposal became FCAS's primary non-routine business focus. To that end, in addition to our sixteen regular meetings, FCAS held a series of ex tempore online meetings and votes (using a catalyst discussion group) to facilitate and expedite the College of Engineering DtC proposal over the winter break. We were able to get this proposal unanimously voted through in late January 2017; the remainder of the year saw continued work with CoE to ease the proposal through successfully, and have it in place for the current (AU 2017) admissions cycle.

❖ **FCAS Policy on Internships**

The council drafted a new FCAS policy on Service Learning and Internships in order to maximize the effectiveness of such opportunities and to set effective standards in terms of student learning, advising, and evaluation.

❖ **Term substitution: “competitive majors” to “capacity-constrained majors”**

Due to the apparent and widespread misapprehension—by entering and current students, as well as those who advise them—of the term “competitive major” (that such majors are

more difficult, more valuable, or more respected) as well as the fact that such has never been any formal major designation at the UW, the council unanimously moved to substitute the term “competitive major” with the more accurate “capacity-constrained major.”

❖ **Class B legislation concerning changes to Scholastic Regulations (area of academic interest)**

The council moved to allow area of academic interest to be taken into consideration in the Holistic Admissions process for non WA residents, in order to hopefully reduce the percentage of students who accept offers of admission to the UW Seattle only to find that they are unable to gain entry into capacity-constrained majors.

❖ **Decision concerning “W” (Additional Writing) Credit**

The council wrote a new policy pertaining to the W (“Additional Writing”) credit specifying that as the purpose of the W requirement is to build upon the skills learnt in English Composition courses, all writing for these credits must be done in the English language.

❖ **Class B legislation concerning ROTC priority registration**

The council successfully passed legislation to allow contracted ROTC students priority registration.

❖ **Presentation of “Preferred Names” legislation to the Faculty Senate**

The council, working with the Registrar, presented legislation that confirmed all students’ rights to be listed—on email and class roster—by the name(s) they prefer to use. This does not affect names on transcripts or any official UW documentation.

❖ **Expansion of VLPA status for first year literary language courses**

Working closely with the UW Curriculum Committee, FCAS was able to establish VLPA status for first year literary language courses (that is, language courses for which literary and artistic texts are the primary means of language acquisition, and which are used as source material from the first quarter on). This has already had an ameliorative effect on the registration and retention of such courses.

❖ **New policy on Options and new policy on Minors**

The council drafted new policies on both Options and Minors in order to specify the balance of course overlap for such.

### ❖ **Update to Syllabus Guidelines**

In response to some trends noticed by the UW Curriculum Committee, the council drafted an update to syllabus guidelines, specifying that peer evaluation, while a useful pedagogical tool, cannot replace instructor grading.

### ❖ **Course overlap/duplication**

The council identified fiscal concerns arising from course overlap and reduplication, and, working with SCPB, has begun to move toward new processes of 1503 and new course proposals in order to reduce such in the future.

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#### *Council members during 2016-17 academic year*

**Faculty:** Mark Johnson (Navy ROTC), Dan Ratner (Engineering) (Chair), D. Shores (Business), John Sahr (Engineering), Ann Huppert (Built Environments), Lynn Dietrich (Education), Sarah Stroup (Arts & Sciences), Daniel Enquobahrie (Public Health), Phil Brock (Arts & Sciences), Patricia Kramer (Arts & Sciences), Champak Chatterjee (Arts & Sciences), Matthew Taylor (Arts & Sciences)

**Ex-Officio Representatives:** Jennifer Payne, Donna Sharpe, Conor Casey, Jayda Greco, Kaitlyn Zhou, Meera Roy

**Presidential Designee:** Philip Ballinger

**Regularly-invited guests:** Janice DeCosmo, Robert Corbett, Emily Leggio, Helen Garrett, Tina Miller