

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
FACULTY COUNCIL ON TRI-CAMPUS POLICY

December 8, 2006  
36 Gerberding Hall

Chair Marcia Killien called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

**Meeting Synopsis:**

1. Approval of Minutes
  2. Old Business
    - a. Program Reviews
    - b. Proposal for Handbook Changes (Stein, Collins, Bellamy)
  3. New Business
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**1. Approval of the Minutes**

Minutes from the November 13, 2006, were corrected and approved.

**2.a. Program Reviews**

The purpose of Tri-campus review of new undergraduate programs was reviewed.

Alan Wood expressed concern about the timing of the approval process. Tacoma will have close to 300 new students next year. Some of the new majors under review are not traditional and new students will not recognize their value without careful distribution of information to new students about these new programs. It is important that the approval process be completed as soon as possible in order to begin working on getting the word out to prospective students.

Questions raised by those commenting on the programs as well as those raised in the Council are likely to be raised at the HEC Board as well.

The issue raised most frequently with these programs is what constitutes a major. The integrity and meaning of a major was not adequately addressed in the response to comments. Although not within the purview of this Council the case for integrity of a major is very important, and the Council considered convening a meeting of chair of curriculum committees to address this issue.

Chair Killien stated that the Council's job is to share information across campuses, thus enhancing coordination and movement between campuses, and to determine if comments are adequately addressed. The Council can either send the program back, or forward it to the President/Provost, along with any comments the Council may want to include.

Many of these seem to lack a core of courses fundamental to a major – but the concept of a core often fades with interdisciplinary programs. At some point a decision needs to be made to move the approval process along in good faith, using what's been learned in the past to address the questions remaining.

Programs under consideration:

*Self & Society and Environmental Studies:* Comments regarding core courses had not been adequately addressed.

Concern regarding the lack of consensus on what constitute a major – especially as it relates to interdisciplinary majors at the edge of developing, evolving fields of knowledge.

Concern about whether these programs will be found inviting to students.

A meeting of curriculum chairs and new program staff should be convened on the argument that issues under their purview are snagging the approval process and slowing it down. Chair Killien will put that on the agenda.

*Ethnic, Gender and Labor Studies:* The Core issue should be expanded. Criteria on what constitutes an exceptional student should be more carefully defined. The Council's recommendation is to forward this program to the President/Provost along with the Council's concerns about logistics.

*Politics and Values:* Questions again about the core issue.

*Psychology:* Council recommends forwarding this program with the comment that information must be readily available about differences between this program and the major at the Seattle campus and how that relates to transfer possibilities and entry to graduate school programs.

Undergraduate minor for Tacoma Nursing students in *Health and Society:* Council recommends forwarding the program.

Seattle BA degree in *Biochemistry.* Perhaps this could be dealt with by offering the current BS in biochemistry as an "honors program," and creating a less rigorous track for the non-honors BS degree.

Paul Fleurdelys, ASUW representative to the Council, cautioned against naming programs in new ways to attract students' attention. He believes that on the contrary, it will serve to repel student's interest.

Chair Killien will forward recommendations and the Council's comments to the Registrar by the beginning of next week.

The Council decided to facilitate a meeting with curricular chairs from the three campuses, as well as new program staff and others at their discretion, to discuss the review process. If scheduling proves problematic, videoconferencing options may be explored.

## **2.b. Proposal for Handbook Changes (Stein, Collins, Bellamy)**

Steve Collins distributed draft language for proposed changes to the Faculty Handbook concerning the definition of a campus and distinguishing a campus from a school or college for discussion at the January meeting. He mentioned that Faculty Senate Chair Gail Stygall and Vice Chair Dan Luchtel were very supportive of the proposal. Page one frames the purpose of the changes and adds a section to the Handbook. Page two outlines the responsibilities of the Faculty Councils. Pages three through five include the full implementation of the differentiation of Councils – for example, FCAS and FSCA should be treated differently as University-wide Councils. Other Councils may be added to that short list in time. The last two pages include

items for future consideration, including clarification of the reporting structure within the new campuses.

Chair Killien with let Faculty Senate Chair Gail Stygall know that FCTCP will have legislation for the January SEC agenda.

### **3. New Business**

Tom Bellamy asked that the Council consider recommending a change in policy regarding cross-campus minors and double majors at the next Council meeting.

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.**

*Minutes by Susan Folk, Office of Regional Affairs, [sfolk@u.washington.edu](mailto:sfolk@u.washington.edu), or 206-221-4183.*

#### **Present:**

*Regular:* Marcia Killien, Steven Collins, JW Harrington, Zoe Irene Barsness, Marcy Stein

*Ex-officio:* Dan Luchtel and Julie Nicoletta

*President's Designees:* Thomas Bellamy, Ana Mari Cauce and Alan Wood

*Members of Representative Groups:* Paul Fleurdelys, Cynthia Fugate, Robert Corbett, Bill Weitkamp

*Guest:* Stern Neill, UW Tacoma

#### **Absent:**

*Regular:* Carol Leppa (excused)

*Ex-Officio:* David Lovell (excused), Mike Stiber

