

Annual Report
Academic Policy Committee
2011-2012

Committee members: Julia Aguirre, Linda Ishem, Janice Laakso, Nita McKinley (chair), George Mobus, Joane Mocerri, Doug Wills.

The Academic Policy Committee (APC) considered the **College Level Examination Program (CLEP)** to allow credit for CLEP exams. This program, sponsored by the College Board, includes 33 different exams for courses students would likely take in their first two years. After meetings within APC and with a representative of CLEP, APC voted to recommend allowing credit for CLEP to the Faculty Assembly Executive Council (EC). This was later approved by the EC.

The APC reviewed data on the impact of **changes in English proficiency admission requirements** for International Students that were approved last year. Changes included reducing TOEFFL and ILS score requirements, matching SAT cutoff scores to match Seattle and Bothel; requirements, allowing admission prior to junior year, allowing an AA from a community college with two English composition courses to replace testing. Data shows that international students generally were doing well with 11 of 60 students on the dean's list and two students on probation in the Winter 2012 term. APC approved additional revisions this year reducing the transfer credits required for international students from 90 to 30 credit hours. This change was approved because the English Composition courses were considered more diagnostic of English proficiency than a particular number of credit hours and it would allow students to enter UWT sooner, which will help in programs with limited admission quarters and get student earlier advising for UWT majors.

The APC also considered the new **Policy on Satisfactory Academic Progress** approved by the Seattle Faculty Council on Academic Standards (FCAS). This policy is intended to facilitate a timely turnaround of students and applies only to undergraduates. The committee voted not to adopt a similar policy on the UWT campus because 1) transfer students who make up a large portion of our students often need additional hours to complete a degree, 2) we are not near capacity, 3) students do not appear to be taking exorbitant numbers of hours, and 4) (a distant fourth) we need the FTEs.

The APC considered and approved a number of **new programs and program changes**, including

- a new Doctoral Degree in Educational Leadership (EdD)
- a new BA degree in Law & Policy
- a new Master Degree in Cybersecurity and Leadership
- a change in the BS in Environmental Sciences that provided tracks to maintain interdisciplinarity while preparing students for the job market

- Changes to the admissions requirements for the BA in Social Work.
- Changes to the admissions and program requirements for the BA in Criminal Justice.
- Changes to the program requirements for the major in Ethnic, Gender, and Labor Studies in IAS.
- Changes to the admissions requirements for the major in Computer Science and Systems in CSS.
- Changes to program requirements for the major in Writing Studies in IAS.
- Changes to program requirements for the major in History in IAS.
- Changes to the program requirements for the major in Communication in IAS.
- Changes to the program requirements for the major in Environmental Studies in IAS.
- Changes to the program requirements for the major in Environmental Sciences in IAS.

The APC also discussed various issues including implementation of the **Statway path agreement** for math for social science majors, the implementation of **online instruction** on the UWT campus, and UW Medical School **MEDEX program** on being implemented on the UWT campus.

A major task for APC this year was clarifying the **role and procedures for getting APC approval on new programs and program changes**. We implemented deadlines for submission of forms and worked with the Curriculum Committee chair to ensure that programs were getting notification of the new procedures.

APC also ruled on several student petitions, as well as reviewing applications and making a recommendation to the Chancellor for the 2011-2012 Chancellor's Medal recipient.

Finally, APC has been active in the committee exploring and proposing a **restructure of the APC and Curriculum Committee (CC)**.

Major tasks for the coming year include

- Continue work on the restructure of APC and CC (assuming the faculty vote to approve this change) and ensuring the new committee fully covers the responsibilities of the current APC committee.
- Continue work to clarify procedures and process for program review and approval and to communicate these to programs.
- Develop guidelines to encourage new program proposals to address how diversity benefits the program and to be specific in how their programs will target underrepresented groups.
- Identify specific cross-program issues for that need addressing in the coming year (e.g., revisiting the "W" designation for courses).

In addition to dealing with a student petition for an exception to graduation requirements, APC has addressed the following issues.

- *Quantitative Literacy.* APC heard about the implementation of the STATWAY path agreement signed by the provost for a three-year trial. STATWAY allows an alternative pathway to university admissions that bypasses the intermediate algebra requirement and gives students credit for statistics courses. The idea is that this pathway would be more appropriate for students in areas such as the social sciences. APC expressed concern this agreement did not go through this committee. APC noted the need for additional conversations across campus about quantitative literacy requirements. APC member Julia Aguirre volunteered to stay in contact with Jenny Quinn and others to continue this discussion.
- *Program Proposals/Changes.* APC approved proposals for the following:
 - a new Doctoral Degree in Educational Leadership (EdD)
 - a change in the BS in Environmental Sciences that provided tracks to maintain interdisciplinarity while preparing students for the job market
 - a new BA degree in Law & Policy (contingent on the specification of the role of diversity in the program)
- *APC Process.* APC has engaged in conversations about APC process for dealing with new programs and program changes. There has been a lack of clarity in responsibilities of the Curriculum Committee (CC) versus APC as well as concerns about when the proposals come to APC and whether the approval must be considered by the whole committee. APC agreed that proposals must be reviewed by the entire committee prior to the chair signing. APC is posting meeting dates on their webpage along with deadlines for submission of proposals. This information was also sent to all programs.
- *APC/CC Reorganization.* APC is engaging in discussions with EC on the reorganization of the APC and CC and committee members are serving on that taskforce. Nita McKinley and Julia Aguirre will represent APC on this taskforce.

Submitted by Nita McKinley, Chair