September 16, 2016

Professor Sarah Stroup
Chair, Faculty Council on Academic Standards

Dear Professor Stroup:

The Faculty Council on Academic Standards is charged with responsibility “for matters of university policy relating to the academic affairs of the university, such as admissions policy, scholastic standards, university graduation requirements, and inter-institutional academic standards” (Faculty Code, Sec 42-34). Activities historically performed include approval of 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 honors GPA cutoffs.

Our recommendation is that the council identify 3 specific goals that can be accomplished by the end of the 2016-17 academic year.

The Senate office did a background review to help identify goals for your council. This included review of minutes from last year’s meetings, review of discussions at Faculty Senate meetings, and selected outreach for topics. Recommended goals and / or topics for discussion include:

- The UW College of Engineering plans to change the method by which they enroll undergraduate majors to implement direct-to-college admissions. The process to cement the change requires official approval from FCAS with oversight and consultation from the FCAS Subcommittee on Academic Programs, FCAS Subcommittee on Admissions and Graduation, Office of Admissions, and University Registrar’s Office.
- Develop a set of guidelines to be used by colleges and schools exploring a shift to direct-to-college admissions.
- Review current admissions policies and procedures to assess the effectiveness of holistic admissions.

After your first council meeting we will be available to discuss the goals your council identified. Thereafter, we will post your council’s goals on the Faculty Senate Website to communicate the important work you are doing on their behalf.

Sincerely,

Zoe Barsness
Faculty Senate Chair
Associate Professor of Business

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