UW-Madison University Academic Planning Council
Minutes of September 18, 2014 meeting

Members present: Mangelsdorf, Aldag, Blair, Browning, Crone, Edwards, Emmel, Eriksson, Miller, Oakley, Scholz, Thelen

Members Excused: Blank, Chen, Seidenberg

Visitors: E. Klein, S. Smith, M. Pflieger, S. Cramer, S. Owczarek, J. Milner, M. Young, M. Bischof

1. Welcome, introductions, opening announcements.


Dr. Milner provided background and context for new committee members including what types of issues come to the UAPC. Over time patterns emerge and form a basis for having the policy discussions this group will have.

The 2013-14 UAPC Annual Report provides a summary of last year’s activity. It has been submitted to the Office of the Secretary of the Faculty and will be scheduled for an upcoming Faculty Senate meeting. The practice for UAPC has been for the annual report to be a compilation of information from the minutes, which are approved each month. Thus, the annual report does not include new information beyond which the Council has already approved. In 2013-14, UAPC approvals included some changes to departments. The Department of Theatre and Drama was relocated from the College of Letters & Science to the School of Education. The Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies was discontinued. The UAPC action is the last approval step for such actions related to departments but these actions are presented to the Faculty Senate for presentation before they are considered final. These presentations are scheduled for the October 2014 Faculty Senate meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

3. Automatic Consent – Minutes of the June 23, 2014, meeting. UAPC Doc 2014.09.18.05

4. Suspend Admissions – Capstone Certificate in Nursing Care of Children with Chronic Conditions in Schools. The School of Nursing will provide a request to reopen or discontinue the program by March 30, 2015. This action is conditional on approval at the September 12, 2014, Graduate Faculty Executive Committee meeting. UAPC Doc 2014.09.18.06
Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Miller. Approved unanimously.

APPROVAL ITEMS

5. Proposal for a formal named Option: Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine (WARM) in the Doctor of Medicine (MD) Program. The option is proposed to be implemented in Fall 2014. Presenter: Byron Crouse, Associate Dean for Rural and Community Medicine, School of Medicine and Public Health. UAPC Doc 2014.09.18.07

Dr. Crouse explained that WARM is not a new program and is currently starting its 8th year. The program was started in response to need to have more doctors practicing rural medicine in Wisconsin. The size of the MD class has been increased from 150 to 176 to accommodate this program; 26 new MS students are enrolled in WARM each year. There are 100 students currently in the program and tracking students and outcomes has been an issue. The WARM option will help track students in the program.

In response to questions, Dr. Crouse noted that so far it appears that graduates are practicing medicine in rural Wisconsin. It is a bit early to tell to what extent this will be the case given that only a few cohorts have had long enough to complete medical school and their residency training. There is about a 90% return rate for those who have completed residency.

Motion to create a formal named option: Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine in the Doctor of Medicine (MD) Program was made by Scholz, and seconded by Miller. Approved unanimously.

6. Rename the Department of Classics to Department of Classical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies. Presenters: Susan Zaeske, Associate Dean, College of Letters & Science; Jeff Beneker, Chair, Department of Classics. UAPC Doc 2014.09.18.08

Associate Dean Zaeske presented the request to rename the Department of Classics. This renaming proposal is part of a wider reorganization that includes integrating two faculty whose tenure home was moved to Classics with the discontinuation of the Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies. The name change request is made in part to recognize the widening scholarship of the department. The proposed name, Classical and Near Eastern Studies, more closely corresponds to the name of similar departments at peer universities.

Motion to rename the Department of Classics to Department of Classical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies was made by Crone, and seconded by Miller. Approved unanimously.

7. Undergraduate General Education Committee (UGEC) Report - Presenter: Elaine Klein, Assistant Dean, Letters & Science, and Chair of the UGEC. The focus of the discussion was on the recommendations of the UGEC (page 6 of the report) that: (a) Students should complete the Ethnic Studies Requirement within the first 60 credits in residence of undergraduate study; (b) Completion of “early” requirements (Communication A, Ethnic
Dr. Klein began her presentation with an overview of the undergraduate general education requirements. She reminded Council that L&S administers the general education curriculum because the majority of the courses are taught in L&S. The Undergraduate General Education Committee (UGEC) is a campus-wide committee and includes representatives from major units that support undergraduate education. The four domains of General Education are Communication, Quantitative Reasoning, Ethnic Studies, and breadth requirements. Faculty liaisons review and approve course proposals for the Communications, Quantitative Reasoning, and ethnic studies requirements. The L&S Curriculum Committee reviews courses for breadth. Other schools and colleges may use the breadth attributes that are approved by L&S but they may include other courses as well.

Assessment is important for determining whether general education is serving the intended educational purpose. Changes to general education policy are developed based on what assessment says about student learning in general education courses. Recently the UGEC completed an assessment of the ethnic studies requirement and confirmed that students are learning what is intended. Student’s attitudes and understanding changed as a result of fulfilling their ethnic studies requirement. The UGEC, based on these findings, recommends that the UAPC adopt policy that students complete the ethnic studies requirement in the first two years of their undergraduate work.

In the discussion that followed the presentation Prof. Edwards suggested that development of foundational knowledge would serve as a stronger argument for completing the ethnic studies requirement early in the undergraduate career than arguments based on the effect on attitudinal adjustments. Dean Scholz noted that any implementation effort of a requirement for completion of ethnic studies in the first 60 credits would require an advising, technical and registrar resources. It will be important to determine whether setting a requirement meets the sensible cost test. Other questions that were discussed included any impacts on time to degree, consideration of students who have curricular requirements that make early completion of ethnic studies impractical (especially in Engineering), if sufficient advising resources were available, and whether additional curricular resources would be needed to deal with a bulge of students during implementation of a requirement. Council members asked if data on ethnic studies course taking patterns could be made available.

Council discussed the pros and cons of setting an expectation of completing ethnic studies early in the undergraduate career versus setting it as a requirement. Currently there is an expectation for Communications A and Quantitative Reasoning A to be taken early in the undergraduate career but these are not enforced. Oakley expressed a preference for having all of the requirements treated the same; some should not be strictly enforced if others were subject only to an expectation of completion. Council concluded that setting an expectation was appropriate. Once an expectation had been set, more review could be done to evaluate if a requirement was needed.
Motion: To set an expectation that students should complete the Ethnic Studies Requirement early in their undergraduate career (within the first 60 credits in residence of undergraduate study), consistent with expectations for Quantitative Reasoning A and Communications A. Moved by Crone; seconded by Aldag. Approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.