Members present: Mangelsdorf, Aldag, Bartlett, Blair, Browning, Crone, Emmel, Eriksson, Oakley, Olds, Scholz, Thelen

Members Excused: Blank, Chen, Miller, Edwards,


1. Welcome, introductions, opening announcements.

CONSENT AGENDA


Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Crone.  Approved unanimously.

APPROVAL ITEMS

3. Proposed new formal named option, Resource Energy Demand Analysis, in the MA-Agricultural and Applied Economics degree/major. This program has been developed as a program-revenue program under Educational Innovation and targets the adult and professional student market. The program will start recruiting immediately upon approval and is planning to enroll students in Fall 2015. Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics programs are up to date on program review; their last review was in 2007-08. The option was approved at the October 10, 2014 Graduate Faculty Executive Committee meeting.  UAPC Doc 2014.10.16.02

The proposal for a named option, Resource Energy Demand Analysis, in the MA-Agricultural and Applied Economics degree/major was removed from the consent agenda for discussion. The focus of the discussion was that four of the five new courses required for the program had not yet been approved by the University Curriculum Committee (UCC). The UCC had returned the proposals to the department with a request for revision. Council members raised questions about whether the program should be approved in the absence of approved courses. The courses for this program are currently in the review process and there are expectations that the courses will be approved by the end of the fall semester. After some discussion Council members suggested that approval be conditional and that the program could be implemented for recruiting, but students should not be admitted until the courses were approved. Council members asked that a report be submitted with all of the courses had been approved.
Scholz moved to approve conditionally, contingent on approval of the courses. Crone seconded.

4. Proposal to discontinue the BS-Family, Consumer, and Community Education degree/major program in the School of Human Ecology. Presenter: Wendy Way, Associate Dean, School of Human Ecology. The last semester this program will be available for enrollment or degrees is proposed as Fall 2014. UAPC Doc 2014.10.16.03

Associate Dean Wendy Way explained that the BS-Family, Consumer, and Community Education is a low-enrollment program. There is a demand for secondary school teachers that have this preparation but it is covered at other UW institutions. Admission to the program was suspended in December 2011. At the time of suspension, only 15 students were enrolled. The program faculty have accounted for all of the students who might wish to complete the program in the near future. Any remaining students will all finish this semester. In the course of discussion it was clear that there were no discernable objection to discontinuation.

Motion to discontinue the BS-Family, Consumer, and Community Education degree/major program in the School of Human Ecology was made by Scholz, and seconded by Blair. Approved unanimously.

5. Proposal to discontinue the BS-Consumer Affairs degree/major program in the School of Human Ecology. Presenter: Wendy Way, Associate Dean, School of Human Ecology. The last semester this program is proposed to be available for enrollment or degrees will be Summer 2016. UAPC Doc 2014.10.16.04

Admission to the BS-Consumer Affairs was suspended in December 2011. There were a fairly large number of students in the program at the time and recognition that the department lacked the resources to support three major programs was the reason for discontinuation. That rationale was confirmed by a self-study and a recommendation from outside reviewers. The BS-Retailing and BS-Personal Finance majors that remain have core set of courses and much clearer career paths that are aligned with the research focus of the School of Human Ecology faculty. At the time the BS-Consumer Affairs was suspended there were 338 students in the department, 174 were in BS-Personal Finance and BS-Retailing. Today there are 226 students in these two majors.

The proposal is to discontinue the program and allow students in the pipeline to complete the program until August 2016. This will allow a few students who are still enrolled to graduate from the program. This plan has been communicated to remaining students. Any students remaining in the program after August 2016 will be allowed to complete the program in the individual major in the School of Human Ecology.

Motion to discontinue the BS-Consumer Affairs degree/major program in the School of Human Ecology was made by Olds, and seconded by Crone. Approved unanimously.
DISCUSSION ITEMS


Wendy Crone reminded the committee that the Graduate School underwent a significant policy change last year to align master’s program standards with HLC recommendations. These changes provided an opportunity to review all related policy and practice. One policy change identified was a discontinuation of the senior-grad status, which allows UW-Madison seniors to be admitted as graduate students for one over-lapping semester under very specific and limited circumstances. Senior-grad status requires admission to a UW-Madison graduate program and prior approval in order to count the credits toward their graduate degree. This classification has been used by two programs on campus; MS-Nuclear Engineering & Engineering Physics and Master of Accounting. These programs have been contacted and an appropriate accommodation has been worked out.

The Graduate School has contacted and worked with students who are currently in the senior-grad status and those who were interested but not yet admitted to a graduate program so we are at a good place for eliminating this classification. Any current students will be accommodated if they can provide a plan of study that shows they would benefit from using the old policy they will be allowed to finish under that policy. The new policy is more permissive in that it allows some courses numbered 300 and higher from the undergraduate program to be applied to graduate program requirements in any program, as program requirements allow.

Council members asked questions about the timeline, including the plan to end the classification this semester, Fall 2014. Dean Crone explained that the Graduate School has been working on implementation for the past academic year and all students and programs had been contacted to make alternative plans. Council members also asked about a plan for communication to undergraduate programs and advisors more widely. Now that this has been put in the UAPC record, APIR will work with the Graduate School and campus to make sure that documents such as the undergraduate catalog are updated to reflect the change.

In other discussion, Dean Crone confirmed that this had no impact on any international partnerships and did not change the way that other universities accepted UW-Madison undergraduate course work to meet graduate-level program requirements.


By UAPC and Regent policy, each academic program to be reviewed every 10 years and at the 5 year point for new programs. Program review was discussed by UAPC three or four times at Council meetings in the 2013-14 academic year and a tremendous amount of work in this area has been accomplished in the schools/colleges in the past year. The progress report that was submitted to the Board of Regents for 2013-14 is included in the materials the UAPC received for this meeting.
A total of 56 reviews covering 63 programs were completed in 2013-14. UW-Madison has about 500 programs overall so approximately 50 programs need to be reviewed each year to stay on track. The 2013-14 academic year was the first time in several years that more than 50 program reviews were completed. There are still more than 100 programs that are ongoing or scheduled for review. Part of the reason for the increased activity was Provost DeLuca’s January 2014 request to deans to make renewed efforts to clear the backlog of overdue program reviews.

Kris Olds asked if there will be a bubble in the need for review as a result of all of the new Educational Innovation programs that have been created recently. The answer to that is yes as all new programs that are approved create a need for a program review five years hence.

Council discussed some of the reasons for delay of some program reviews. There are a range of reasons. Some have to do with weak infrastructure to support program review in some schools/colleges. Other reasons are a need for timing to adjust for linkage among program reviews or a connection with specialized accreditation. Some schools/colleges with good infrastructure have a large volume of reviews to move through. In some cases, wider changes impact the timeline such as for some international programs. In some cases it’s not clear to dean’s offices and departments what they actually need to do. Jocelyn Milner explained that it’s becoming clear that a more prescriptive toolkit would be helpful to academic units and APIR will be working on this kind of support to departments over the next academic year. This anticipated toolkit will also contain better information about how to access data resources. Programs find the process onerous and it needs to be better communicated that the scope of the review can be focused on the student experience. Such a focus is sufficient for institutional requirements although the department may want to take a wider view.

LD Oakley suggested trying to look at why some programs are able to complete these reviews more easily or where they have good infrastructure for doing it and where they realized benefits from doing this. We need to turn the focus to look at where it is going well and figure out how to apply their good practices to other areas.

Jocelyn Milner drew Council’s attention to the January 2014 memo from Provost DeLuca to the deans asking that the program review backlog be addressed. She reported that having the memo for reference had been very helpful in working with colleagues across campus. She asked Council if they continued to support the practice of expecting units that are advancing new program proposals to be up to date with program review. Council expressed agreement; Provost Mangelsdorf agreed to send out such a memo later in the academic year.

Council also discussed standards for low-enrollment, which is currently set at five degrees in five years. For low-enrollment programs, the dean’s office is asked to conduct a short review to justify continuation of the program. Those requests usually go out in the fall. The sense of the Council discussion was that the standards for low-enrollment should be revisited and perhaps different standards should be set for degree/major programs and certificate programs.
INFORMATION ITEM

8. Sustainability Certificate Admissions Report – At the time of approval, the UAPC asked for a report on the admissions process for the Sustainability Certificate. That report was distributed with the agenda for information. UAPC Doc 2014.10.16.07

Adjourned 4:43pm