UW-Madison University Academic Planning Council
Minutes of February 19, 2015 meeting

Members present: Mangelsdorf, Aldag, Bartlett, Browning, Crone, Emmel, Miller, Oakley, Olds, Scholz

Members excused: Blair, Blank, Chen, Edwards, Eriksson, Thelen

Visitors: M. Bischof, S. Cramer, E. Klein, S. Kuba, R. Lankton, J. Milner, S. Owczarek, E. Petty, B. Schwab, M. Young

1. Welcome, introductions, opening announcements.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Minutes of the January 15, 2015, meeting. UAPC Doc 2015.02.19.01

3. Approval of a Capstone Certificate in Geodesign, Department of Landscape Architecture, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. This program will be a non-pooled tuition program developed under Educational Innovation and delivered as a fully online distance program. The first cohort will be enrolled in Fall 2015. A program review of the MS/MA in Landscape Architecture is underway and will be completed in spring 2015. The proposed action was approved at the February 13, 2015, Graduate Faculty Executive Committee (GFEC) meeting. UAPC Doc 2015.02.19.02

4. Approval of the Capstone Certificate in Power Conversion and Control, Engineering Professional Development (EPD), College of Engineering. This program will be a non-pooled tuition program developed under Educational Innovation and delivered as an online distance program. The first cohort will be enrolled in Fall 2015. EPD programs are up to date on program review. The proposed action was approved at the February 13, 2015, GFEC meeting. UAPC Doc 2015.02.19.03

5. Discontinuation of the M.S. in Business: Actuarial Science, School of Business. The M.S. in Business: Actuarial Science will be discontinued effective Spring 2015. Admissions were suspended in Fall 2011, and there are no longer any students in the program. The MS program was replaced by the Capstone Certificate in Actuarial Science. The proposed action on this proposal was approved at the February 13, 2015, GFEC meeting. UAPC Doc 2015.02.19.04

6. Discontinuation of the named Option: Entrepreneurial Management in the MBA in Business: Management and Human Resources, School of Business. The option is to be discontinued effective Spring 2015. Admissions were suspended in Fall 2010 and there are no longer any students in the program. The option was replaced by a graduate certificate of the same name. The proposed action on this proposal was approved at the February 13, 2015, GFEC meeting. UAPC Doc 2015.02.19.04
CONSENT AGENDA WAS APPROVED.

FOR APPROVAL

7. Proposal to rename the Department of Family Medicine to Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, School of Medicine and Public Health. Presenters: Bill Schwab, Vice Chair of Family Medicine; Elizabeth Petty, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. The name change is effective as of July 1, 2015. UAPC Doc 2015.02.19.05

Dean Petty explained that the name change is in line with the name change of the School of Medicine to SMPH some years ago and recognizes the inclusion of public health in family medicine. It validates the integration of community health already found within the coursework, mission, vision, and philosophy of the Department. The School of Medicine and Public Health APC, chairs and Dean unanimously endorsed the proposal.

Motion to rename the Department of Family Medicine to Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, School of Medicine and Public Health. Motion by Oakley, seconded by Olds. Approved unanimously.

8. Undergraduate Pass/Fail Policy. Presenter: Michelle Young, Academic Planning and Institutional Research. This policy has been under development for two years. It has been endorsed by all the schools/colleges with undergraduates and is ready for UAPC approval. Doc 2015.02.19.06

The proposed Undergraduate Pass/Fail Policy covers a student’s academic standing, limits on the types of courses that can be graded pass/fail, the number of courses taken on a pass/fail basis both in a single course and over the undergraduate career. Currently, schools and colleges have similar, but not identical pass/fail policies. If adopted, this policy would replace existing school/college policies and serve as a single policy for pass/fail that would serve undergraduates across UW-Madison.

The Council questioned if there were any detriments to students taking courses on a pass/fail basis. Students must have a certain number of graded credits to be on dean’s list, Pass/fail does not factor in. A grade of “D” is passing in an A-F grading scale. A grade of “D” is not passing when taking a course Pass/Fail. The ramifications of taking a course pass/fail are not changing.

Adopting an undergraduate pass/fail policy would alleviate burden on advisors explaining multiple policies. A small number of students take courses pass/fail. The number of students taking pass/fail courses has dropped because PE Active courses no longer exist. If approved the Undergraduate Pass/Fail Policy will go into effect Fall 2015.

Motion to approve the Undergraduate Pass/Fail Policy. Motion by Crone, seconded by Olds. Approved unanimously.

9. UW-Madison Plan for Assessment of Student Learning. Presenter: Mo Noonan Bischof, Associate Vice Provost. This plan was formally endorsed by the University Council on Academic Affairs & Assessment (UCAAA) and was presented to the UAPC for formal endorsement. Doc 2015.02.19.07

The proposed university assessment plan will replace the assessment plan adopted in 2003. It brings forward many of the features and requirements set out in the 2003 plan, but
has a stronger emphasis on implementation. There will be a one to three year implementation process for the revised Plan for Assessment of Student Learning. As a first step, academic programs will be required to articulate and adopt learning goals and report that information through a central collection. The Office of the Provost and the Graduate School will support schools and colleges through the implementation process with workshops and in-department consultation.

Motion to endorse the UW-Madison Plan for Assessment of Student Learning. Motion by Crone, seconded by Olds. Approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

10. State budget and possible impact on academic programs.

Provost Mangelsdorf invited discussion of the current budget situation. Materials were distributed as a basis for discussion including the UAPC Policy on Low Enrollment Academic Programs; a summary of program implementations, eliminations and consolidations of academic programs, departments and centers over the past 20 years; by-department counts of tenured/tenure track faculty; and by-program counts of degrees at the bachelor’s, master’s, and PhD level.

Council commented on these data and the breadth of the distribution. All agreed that low numbers of graduates is not in itself a sign that a program should be discontinued or reorganized. Departments with low numbers of graduates may teach large general education courses or may have value in a range of academic dimensions. Data is an important part of the story, but not sufficient to understand program value.

Council members also observed that we depend on faculty to develop and vote on proposals to merge or close programs or departments. These kinds of actions take substantial planning and discussion. Deans monitor programs and departments through program reviews and a range of data and qualitative information.

Council members observed that it’s an especially challenging time to prepare for what’s coming because there is a level of uncertainty about the immediate future that makes planning difficult.

Council members were interested in continuing some of this discussion in March and were interested in data on credit hours by department.

Adjourned: 4:45 p.m.