March 11, 1999


Visitors: Paula Nelson (Social Science Comprehensive Major Program), Sally Standiford (School of Education), Joe Thomas (Industrial Studies), Bill Spofford (Study Abroad), Darla Banfi, Charlotte Stokes (Liberal Arts & Education), Jerry Strohm (Business, Industry, Life Science and Agriculture)

The meeting came to order at 4:00. The minutes from the 2/25/99 meeting were approved.

Dates for APC Self-Study Reports are as follows:

Economics (Bob Fidrych, liaison) March 25, 1999

Computer Science (Sue Price, liaison) March 25, 1999

Accounting (Rob Calcaterra) March 25, 1999

Buttry as APC liaison to the Study Abroad Program prefaced the review by explaining that the program is a self-sustained program and that it is utilized by students from numerous campuses, not just UWP.

Price commended Spofford for the excellence of the report. She suggested that he come to department meetings to inform faculty about the program and encourage their participation.

Van Buren voiced a concern regarding curricular approval of new programs and asked if there was some means of reviewing courses offered at the exchange institutions. Spofford answered with a ‘qualified no’ explaining that these institutions have their own means of approving courses and that the UUCC would duplicate the work of their accrediting bodies.

Krogman inquired whether it is possible to include technical coursework in study abroad experiences. Spofford explained that such courses require language fluency and that the best study abroad experience allows a student to study the culture where the student is in school. There are more opportunities to study a culture through coursework in the humanities and social sciences.

He generally advises students to save general education requirements for their semesters abroad. Spoto interjected that there is a model for what Krogman was inquiring about: a junior year abroad program for UW-Madison Engineering students. Spofford said that Chancellor Markee is hoping to develop something similar with our exchange program to
Turkey; to develop a curriculum specific to a field of study. He added that such an endeavor required the involvement of faculty from both institutions.

Ceylan also commented on the quality of the self-study report from Study Abroad. He suggested that Spofford email officers and faculty advisers of student organizations and offer to make presentations at organizational meetings.

Fidrych moved to receive the report; Spoto seconded; motion carried.

Nimocks introduced the Social Sciences Comprehensive Major Program self-study by summarizing survey responses from 4 involved faculty members.

Ceylan questioned the use of the term ÔProfit CenterÕ used in the report to refer to Social Sciences.

Nelson explained that the faculty receive relatively low salaries, the major doesn't require costly equipment, and that many students may be taught in single sections. Therefore these courses make money for the University and that the money goes into a university pool that helps to support other high-tech, more expensive academic programs. She argued that this leads to poor pedagogy, low morale, and "bleeds" faculty. Ceylan continued that "profit center" is not a business term and found it a troubling inappropriate use of words. Nelson responded that this phrase was not chosen as "fighting words" but in an effort to communicate an accurate assessment.

Spoto affirmed that the term may not be used frequently in business circles but that what Nelson described is a reality. Krogman added that it was important in these self-studies that faculty remain candid.

Price noted that a page was missing from the description of the program. Van Buren encouraged the department to rewrite the copy regarding writing competency so that it did not seem to disparage the education major.

Calcaterra inquired about 300-400 level courses required to graduate. Nelson explained that the selection of electives is quite broad and that most students meet the requirement to complete 40 credits at 300-400 level through courses in education, history and geography.

Fidrych referred to the survey responses provided by Social Science faculty which indicated that the business major has eliminated a number of economics courses which were formerly required or suggested. He explained that as a part of benchmarking several years earlier, the business department had compared its major requirements to those of business majors in comparable institutions and the department had determined they were including too many economics courses in the business major. Nelson added that former faculty member Ken Kamps had found that coursework in history is what made Social Science majors marketable as secondary education teachers, economics coursework was less marketable.
Van Buren asked why the political science area had ceased to participate in the program. Nelson responded that the history coursework was the driving force and that the political science area needed to reduce course offerings. Standiford interjected that according to the most recent NCATE accreditation, the Social Sciences Comprehensive Major was unconditionally approved.

Van Buren moved to receive the self-study; Calcaterra seconded; the motion passed.

Van Buren moved to take Reinstatement of the Technology Education Major off the table; Fidrych seconded.

Thomas distributed documentation from the Wisconsin DPI showing the great need for Technology Educators all over the state and added that Stout is presently the only institution that offers a major in Technology Education. Standiford distributed copies of the 1999 Job Search Handbook for Educators. She drew the Council's attention to a table that indicated a "Considerable Shortage" of Technology Educators in our region. She added that the EEN minor would distinguish our program from Stout's and make our graduates even more marketable.

Krogman asked the provost about positions available to staff this major.

Provost Butts replied that System allocates 'x' number of positions to us and we can't go over that number because the state picks up the benefits. She added that there are other paths for funding a faculty position such as grants.

She has nothing official from the Chancellor yet but is confident we'll receive .5 position for this major. The School of Education has previously committed another .5 position for this Technical Education.

Van Buren moved to reinstate the Technology Education Major contingent on the authorization of a position to staff it; Spoto seconded. Strohm indicated that they needed to know if the position would be staffed so that they could begin a search to fill the position. Van Buren explained that the Council really can't "give" a position; we are dependent on System's decision. Krogman suggested that BILSA might reallocate a half a position. Strohm explained that vacated positions were returned to the Provost for reallocation.

Butts indicated that the outlook is positive and that they should move ahead with advertising the position.

Question was called; motion carried.

Krogman indicated that he would bring the action to the attention of the Faculty Senate.

Buttry moved to adjourn; Calcaterra seconded; motion carried.
The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Mittie Nimocks, Secretary du jour