Minutes of the Academic Planning Council Meeting  
October 26, 2005

Members present: Carol Sue Butts, Brian Peckham, Donna Perkins, Jean Scheppers, Jennifer Snoek-Brown, Jason Thrun, Amanda Trewin, Sheryl Wills

Guests present: Alison Bunte

I. The meeting was called to order at 4:09 p.m..

II. The minutes of the last meeting were distributed. Since several members did not have a chance to review the minutes before the meeting, it was decided to wait until the next meeting to approve the minutes.

III. Announcements:
   a. Brian Peckham stated that at their last meeting, the UABC had approved the new emphasis from Civil Engineering. Sheryl Wills also stated that the new emphasis was approved at UUCC.
   b. Carol Sue Butts announced that the accreditation committee will be here in December 2006. There are 15 people on the university steering committee and 5 subcommittees. The first draft of the accreditation report is finished and the second draft is due on November 1.

IV. Alison Bunte gave a presentation entitled “School of Education – Best Practices Makes a Difference”. She stated many areas of strength in the School of Education, including a very committed and dedicated faculty, new and innovative curriculum to align with the new DPI requirements, an increase in successful grant writing, and UWP having the only middle level license program in the state of Wisconsin. She also stated several areas of concern in the School of Education. Among these concerns was the large increase in the number of students over the past several years without a similar increase in number of faculty, administrative support, and money. Also, there is concern about faculty burnout due to the increased demands by DPI/NCATE, No Child Left Behind, and the low number of tenured/tenure track faculty. For example, this spring, 53% of education class credits will be taught by adjunct or academic staff. Due to the decrease in the number of tenured/tenure track faculty, faculty have a much heavier advising load and a heavier load for committee work than in the past (since most academic staff and adjuncts to not advise students and serve on committees). This may be a contributing factor to faculty retention problems. In addition, the School Education supply/travel budget and clinical budget has remained unchanged in the past several years even though costs and the number of students have risen. Alison summarized her presentation by stating that the Teacher Education program has grown a great deal in the last 10 years; however, the resources have not kept pace with the increased number of students. This is putting a strain on current faculty and staff and it is beginning to lower the quality of the program.
V. Jean Scheppers summarized the faculty surveys from the School of Education. Eleven surveys were returned and most surveys stressed that faculty were dedicated to the School of Education program, but were concerned about the lack of faculty positions and faculty burnout.

VI. A question and answer period followed in which discussion centered on student learning outcomes in the School of Education and placement rates. Alison Bunte was then thanked for a very nice presentation and was excused from the meeting.

VII. It was recommended that the Teacher Education program be continued. The committee felt that the School of Education did an excellent job on their self-study. The committee was impressed with the assessment tools in the School of Education. In particular, they have done a remarkable job of integrating university and program missions and goals with state and federal requirements to obtain a comprehensive, balanced program. The committee reiterated the concern that education faculty are very overworked and need more faculty positions, more administrative positions, and a larger budget.

A discussion followed about the possibility and implications of grade inflation in the School of Education. Many education programs at other universities are capping enrollments, and therefore UWP is getting some students from these other universities that have “not made the cut”. If these students are consistently getting A’s and B’s at UWP, then the question of “how do our standards and program quality compare to other universities” was raised. APC will be asking Alison Bunte to provide grade distributions for the education classes.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m..

Respectfully submitted by Sheryl Wills