Minutes of the Academic Planning Council Meeting
December 14, 2005

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

Guests present:  Joe Clifton, Patrick Hagen, Ray Spoto, Diana Trendt

I.  The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

II.  Motion to approve the minutes of the November 9 meeting, moved by Carmen Faymonville and seconded by Jason Thrun, was passed.

III.  Career Placement Center representative, Diana Trendt, shared an employment report with the APC.  She asked for help in referring graduates to her office to complete an employment survey

IV.  Joe Clifton reported on software development graduate certificate to be offered to the employees of Avista.  The program would require no additional staffing and would require no additional course offerings.  Motion to pursue this graduate certificate was moved by Amanda Trewin and seconded by Sheryl Wills.

V.  Jean Scheppers presented the German and Spanish self-study report.  In her presentation, Jean emphasized the mission and goals of the two programs, highlighting the role that study of a foreign language plays in the cultural development of a student.  Specifically, Jean stressed that, “the instruction in our program stresses that language and culture are inextricably linked.  Since language is used to express cultural perspectives and to participate in social practices, language study at UWP offers students insights into culture that are available in no other way.”  Jean concluded her presentation with the strengths, weaknesses, and future of the program.

Strengths
- The programs have dedicated faculty with breadth of academic strengths.
- The programs have faculty members who are professionally active and service oriented.
- The support needs are adequately covered by an exceptional secretary.

Weaknesses
- The personnel needs are not adequately covered so more faculty positions are requested.
- Classes are unreasonably large, so more sections of introductory foreign language courses are requested.  In fact, Spanish 1840 and Spanish 1940 should be offered each semester.
Future

- The number of students taking foreign language courses at UWP is anticipated to grow, in part from the Tri-State Initiative and in part from an increased need for multilingual citizens.
- The program has adequate instructional facilities and will continue to produce successful graduates.

After the presentation, the members of the APC discussed the self study and made the following recommendations.

Recommendations by APC

- The Spanish program should develop a plan to recruit and retain more majors.
- The Spanish program should resubmit their self-study with an assessment plan that is more complete. Specifically, the report should identify how the results of the assessment affect the curriculum. Perhaps, the program could develop an assessment plan in consultation with the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language’s Proficiency Guidelines and the National Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st century.
- The Spanish program should offer all Spanish courses required for their major in the spring or fall semester.
- Because of the anticipated growth of students taking general education courses offered by the Spanish program and because the Spanish program has had a long-term permanent academic staff position, additional funding should be allocated to the Spanish program for an additional tenure-track faculty position.
- Both programs have valuable, dedicated, hard-working faculty who serve the UWP community well. We recommend both programs be continued.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jason Thrun