Minutes of the Academic Planning Council Meeting
April 25, 2007

Members present: Carol Sue Butts, Christina Curras, Osama Jadaan, Brian Peckham, Donna Perkins, Jason Thrun, Amanda Trewin, Phil Young.


I. Jason Thrun ably substituted as chair for Sheryl Wills and called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

II. A motion to approve the minutes of April 11, 2007 meeting was made with two corrections and one addition; motion passed.

III. Announcements:
Next APC meeting will include a discussion on program data sheets.

IV. Old Business:
A. APC Summary for Software Engineering:
   Amanda Trewin moved and Phil Young seconded to accept the summary; motion passed.

V. New Business:
A. Entitlement to plan a new major in Forensic Investigation (FI) within the Criminal Justice (CJ) Department: Aric Dutelle presented a proposal requesting that the CJ department be entitled to plan a new major in FI. Provost Butts pointed out that a wonderful 12-page needs assessment report was completed showing significant demand for such a major. It would be the only FI major in Wisconsin with no competition against it in other universities within our state. Aric explained what FI is and its interdisciplinary nature with chemistry and biology. He stated that 5000 FI positions exist in the US, but 450,000 jobs are available that could benefit from students with FI background. Phil Young asked whether majoring in FI would narrow the exposure of students compared to CJ students. Aric replied that FI students would still take fundamental courses in CJ but with emphasis in FI. Donna Perkins moved and Christina Curras seconded to support the request for entitlement to plan a new major in FI within the CJ department; motion passed.

B. Review of Master of Science in Engineering (MSEngr): Lisa Riedle presented the MSEngr self-study, including the program’s mission, strengths, weaknesses, assessment procedure, needs, and future plans. It was a wonderful presentation and the program is to be commended on the quality of their self-study report. Lisa indicated that the majority of students in the on-line Masters program are funded by their employers, hence explaining the dip in enrollment during 2003-04 due to the economic downturn during that period.
Lisa also discussed the challenges for the program and indicated that “identity crisis” is a major issue since the MSEngr is not housed in a department. The program is currently administered by a ¼ time coordinator, a ½ time Associate Student Services Specialist, and a steering committee. Osama Jadaan asked whether the program should propose a department for the MSEngr program. Lisa responded that such discussion should first be conducted within the college and its faculty and then brought back to APC. Provost Butts concurred with that assessment.

The program currently has 206 matriculated students, with 4% being international and 38% from the tri-state area. With such a large number of students being advised by ½ a position, advising becomes a challenge for both students and advisor.

Marketing the program has also been a challenge because of the wide variety of engineering disciplines and the difficulty in focusing a marketing plan to a target audience. Therefore, the Distance Learning Center (DLC) created four different marketing plans for the four different emphases that currently exist within the MSEngr program.

Amanda Trewin moved and Osama Jadaan seconded to recommend that the MSEngr program be continued. Phil Young stated that the university has to handle the issue of “identity crisis” by the MSEngr program and the fact that it does not belong to a department. Carol Sue again stated that this issue has to first be addressed in the college of EMS. However, APC could recommend to the college of EMS to start looking into options of how to handle the identity issue of the MSEngr program. An idea was brought up that one possibility is for the General Engineering department to house the MSEngr program with ½ time release awarded to a faculty member for advising.

The motion was amended to continue the MSEngr program with increased support for advising; motion passed.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Osama Jadaan