Academic Planning Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Members present: Laura Anderson, Chuck Cornett, Dawn Drake, Duane Ford, Bernie Harris, Colleen McCabe, Mark Meyers, Adam Stanley, John Tembei, Jason Thrun, Kay Young

Guests: Tom Caywood, Peter Hadorn, Patrick Hagen

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes
Anderson moved to approve the minutes from 11-11-09. Thrun seconded. Motion carried.

New Business

English Program Review
Hadorn reported on the state of the English program. He emphasized the program’s recent growth areas (TESOL, Film Studies, Gay Studies), and highlighted the strengths of the program’s faculty. He noted several concerns, including low salaries, burdensome composition teaching loads for academic staff, and a lack of preparedness among students entering Freshman Composition. In addition, the program has struggled with stagnant budgets and inadequate facilities (namely, that even the few classrooms they have are not suitable for quality instruction—or health). Hadorn recommended a lowering of class sizes and the possible hiring of a Writing Program Administrator. This individual could make connections with other departments on campus to promote writing across the curriculum, not just in Freshman Composition.

Following the presentation, when asked about the hiring of additional faculty, Hadorn expressed caution about growing too much too quickly, and Hagen pointed out the difficulty of hiring what the program really needs—composition specialists—due to low salaries and heavy teaching loads. Next, the committee explored the perceived inadequacies in student writing skills even after completion of the English 1130-1230 cycle; Hadorn responded that students must continue to be given writing assignments after their composition courses, and that professors need to grade students on their writing, if faculty expect students to build on the skills they have learned in Freshman Composition. In addition, Southwest Tech’s inability to offer enough sections of English 10 is problematic, and Hagen suggested the possibility of hiring a faculty member specializing in remedial composition. Incorporation of the PAL (Peer Assisted Learning) program into Freshman Composition courses was also mentioned.

Motion to continue the English program made by Drake; seconded by Cornett. Motion carried.
Old Business

Proposal for Authorization to Implement New Program: Forensic Investigation
As the first reading of the FI proposal was tabled at the meeting of 11-11-09, Drake moved to un-table the first reading of the proposal. Anderson seconded. Motion carried.

Meyers informed the committee that UABC has voted to support the proposed FI major, but that they had indicated concerns about library resources as well as a need for additional staffing in Biology and Chemistry.

The committee questioned the wisdom of proposing any new programs in the current budgetary climate. Caywood contended that the university must continue to plan for the future and implement cutting-edge programs that address students’ needs. In addition, the issue of library resources was an area of concern; since other UW System campuses do not have FI programs, they do not have the library resources, either, so we cannot rely on Universal Borrowing or other means for students to acquire necessary resources. The committee then addressed the possibility of initiating a system of differential tuition as a potential means of addressing budgetary concerns regarding programs such as FI.

Following discussion, there was no action taken with respect to the FI proposal.

History Program Review Summary
Cornett moved to approve the summary; seconded by Harris. Motion carried.

Other
The committee briefly discussed the Faculty Governance and Committee Self-Assessment distributed by the Faculty Senate.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Adam Stanley