Minutes of the Academic Planning Council
Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Members present: Tim Deis, Susan Hansen, Carol Sue Butts, Carmen Faymonville, Jason Thrun, Brian Peckham, Amanda Trewin, Jennifer Snoek-Brown

Guests present: Suzanne Grebe, Donna Anderson, Barbara Daus

I. As Chair Scheppers was unable to attend, Faymonville called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

II. Motion to approve the minutes of the Feb. 22, 2006 meeting, moved by Peckham and seconded by Hansen, was passed.

III. Old Business:
A. Peckham proposed that the APC move to approve the revised request for the Chancellor’s Plan with the proviso that the questions be reviewed early each fall semester. The motion passed unanimously. Provost Butts will begin preparing the requested information, and if possible, present some of the information to the APC before the end of the semester.
B. Peckham brought up concerns the APC had with the Dept. of Education review (Oct. 26, 2006), particularly with grade inflation and grade distribution records, which have not been readdressed. This will be added to the next agenda.

IV. New Business:
A. Study Abroad Review:
   1. Donna Anderson summarized the report prepared for the APC:
      a. The history, function, and overview of different program locations were reviewed.
      b. Strengths: national reputation for quality and affordable programs, high student evaluation rankings of customer service and communication, and “corner on the market” with new programs (ex: marine studies and biology in Fiji)
      c. Challenges: ability to sustain funds, increased competition
      d. Future: Working toward centralization with international coordinators, maximizing resources, monitoring national trends
      e. Demonstrated International Programs web site, which includes both the study abroad and foreign exchange programs, as well as course equivalency charts (with more in development).
   2. Questions and Concerns included:
      a. Possibility of new programs, including Canada, to cut down costs.
      b. Concern with UW System Board’s stated target of 25% of students to have studied abroad, which is unrealistic. UWP is at about 2%.
      c. High percentage of female participants (75%), which is disproportionate to our student body population. This is a national
trend, but UWP’s study abroad statistics have come down from 80-85% female in the 1980s.

d. Foreign language proficiency is not necessarily required, because it makes the programs more accessible and attractive to students. However, students are encouraged to take language courses while in the program.

e. Does UWP want to compete with larger institutions, and does the program see itself as an “industry” rather than educational? Our study abroad program wants to be educationally relevant but strategic in targeting students, and they are recruiting more students from Wisconsin and the Midwest. Daus commented that they are concentrating more on the academic focus with particular locations, so solid academic quality fits with faculty and student needs.

3. The APC recommended the following:
   a. More depth in assessment, particularly about the efficiency and effectiveness of the process (pre-departure training, organization, ease of access, etc.)
   b. To cut costs, encourage programs in Canada
   c. Program differentiation: More energy into creating more summer programs, as well as finding more niches

4. The APC commended the Study Abroad program for an excellent presentation and report. Motion to continue the Study Abroad program at UWP, moved by Peckham, was approved.

V. Motion to adjourn, moved by Hansen and seconded by Peckham, was passed. Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Snoek-Brown