Minutes of the Academic Planning Council Meeting
September 27, 2006

Members present: Laura Anderson, Carol Sue Butts, Christina Curras, Tim Deis, Brian Peckham, Donna Perkins, Jason Thrun, Amanda Trewin, Sheryl Wills, Phil Young

Guests present: Dawn Drake, Bill Haskins, Tony Munos, Dave Van Buren, Mary Jo Stutenberg

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

II. Sheryl Wills, speaking for Jennifer Snoek-Brown, suggested minor changes in the minutes from September 13. The changes include 1) combining members present and representatives present into one category and 2) indicating that Sheryl Wills was elected chair by a majority. A motion to approve these amended minutes, moved by Donna Perkins and seconded by Laura Anderson, was passed.

III. Software Engineering still needs an APC coordinator. The academic staff representative to the APC will be assigned this review.

IV. Sheryl Wills asked for suggestions to improve the Guidelines for APC Submajor Proposal. Phil Young suggested the word complement replace support in item 5. A motion to approve these amended guidelines, moved by Tim Deis and seconded by Jason Thrun, was passed.

V. Bill Haskins presented the Project Management self-study report. In his presentation, Bill emphasized the exceptional growth of the program, the credentials of the instructors, and the unique nature of the program. Bill concluded the presentation with the strengths, weaknesses, and future of the program.

Strengths
• The program is multidisciplinary and attracts nontraditional students.
• The highly flexible, on-line program is an excellent value for the student and yet generates revenues in excess of the costs.
• The teaching staff has a passion for the discipline.

Weaknesses
• The rapid growth of the program creates some strain on physical resources, teaching resources, and administrative resources.
• The program needs tenured faculty members who can teach the capstone courses.

Future
• The program is expected to continue to grow.
• The program is exploring some new areas of emphasis.
• The program is seeking accreditation from PMI.
After the presentation, the members of the APC discussed the self study, identified some concerns, and made some recommendations.

Concerns Raised

- The administrative structure (Steering Committee structure vs. Department structure) does not seem appropriate for a graduate program.
- Revenue from the program should be used to support on-campus, tenure-track faculty with terminal degrees to teach in the Project Management Program.
- The responsibilities of the instructors need to be similar to those of any member of a program granting a graduate degree. That is, the instructors must be evaluated through the UWP RST process or the process established by the Graduate Council.
- The program is not accredited with the PMI.

Recommendations by APC

As outlined in the UW System Academic Planning and Program Review Document

Cyclic Review of Existing Academic Programs and Academic Support Programs
Each institution is responsible for comprehensive and intensive re-examination of all academic programs and academic support programs. The review should lead to recommendations that a program be: a) expanded or augmented with additional resources, b) continued in its present form and at its current resource level, c) changed in form or direction, d) strengthened and reviewed earlier than the regular review cycle, e) consolidated with other programs, or f) phased out.
(see http://www.uwsa.edu/acadaff/acis/acis-1.pdf)

The committee recommended that the program be d) strengthened and reviewed earlier than the regular review cycle. The program must report back to the APC in two years with an update on their progress regarding the concerns raised by the APC.

VI. A motion to continue the program, moved by Brian Peckham and seconded by Donna Perkins, was passed.

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

Respectfully submitted by Jason Thrun