Members present: Laura Anderson, Christina Curra, Tim Deis, Osama Jadaan, Brian Peckham, Jason Thrun, Amanda Trewin, Dave Van Buren (representing ex –officio, Provost-Carol Sue Butts), Sheryl Wills, Phil Young

Guests: Mesut Muslu, Phil Sealy and David Drury

I. Call Meeting to Order
The meeting was called to order by the chair at 4:00 P.M.

II. Approval of Minutes
Minutes for 11/8/06 were approved.

III. Announcements
No Announcements.

IV. Old Business
No old business.

V. New Business
A. Review of Electrical Engineering (EE)
Mesut Muslu presented the Electrical Engineering Self-Study Report.

Mesut started by praising the dedication and commitment of EE faculty and staff.

The mission of EE is to provide quality EE education with lots of hands-on experience. The promotion of hands-on experience is unique to our program.

In EE, they typically assess technical skills, professional skills, ethics, contemporary issues and lifelong learning as this is required by ABET. EE has developed student learning outcomes in each area. They use a variety of assessment tools to assess their strengths and weaknesses.

Mesut identified several strengths of the program. These included:
1. Clear mission that drives what they do
2. Labs and design projects throughout their curriculum
3. Dedicated faculty/staff that are concerned about the quality of education
4. Excellent lab facilities that are open for student study outside of class periods
Enrollment in EE has dropped recently. This may in part be due to a reduced number of IT programs. It could also be related to the separation of software engineering from the EE program here at UWP. They expect that enrollment will begin to increase due to TSI.

EE supports collaborative programs at UW-Rock (established) and UW-Fox Valley (developing). It was noted that these programs were developed in response to legislature mandate. It was also noted that funding to support these programs is separate from other UWP money. These programs are designed for students already working in industry. Since students are in the workforce, courses are offered after 4 P.M. For these programs, general education requirements are completed through a two-year program. EE courses are completed at night at UW-Rock and UW-Fox Valley. The EE courses are likely to take another 5 years or more as many of the students are also full-time employees. Upon completion, students receive a BS from UWP in EE.

It was noted that there are definitely challenges associated with these programs. These challenges include
1. Difficulty in developing an EE program with only one faculty position on-site
2. Faculty need to be compensated for travel related to program
3. How does administration recognize the effort by UWP faculty related to the teaching of classes at distant sites
4. These programs are also subject to ABET evaluation as part of EE program at UWP
5. Advanced math and physics courses are likely not offered that often on 2-year campuses (This may also place undue impact on their faculty.)

Weaknesses of the program were identified.
1. The EE faculty typically teaches 7 credits per semester. This was identified as a heavy load due to intense laboratory activities. As a result, professional development is largely limited to summer. It was noted that ABET is satisfied with their professional development.
2. Salaries are significantly lower than national average in EE. It was noted that EE salaries are higher than salaries in other departments.

Mesut introduced other EE faculty in attendance at APC (Phil Sealy and David Drury).

David indicated that the self-study doesn’t accurately reflect the program. He feels that we need to create a paper trail that indicates that there are concerns/struggles at UWP (and not just in EE either). Otherwise, we are providing ammunition for legislature/administration to cut funds in future. He argued that is we say we are doing great, why would
legislature/administration favor changing things? He is tired of seeing glowing reports about UWP when the faculty are not all happy.

Concern was expressed about the reduced quality of the student. It was noted that 45% of incoming freshman are placed in remedial math. There is concern that admissions criteria at UWP are too low. There is also fear that faculty are passing students that shouldn’t because of low enrollment as well. Mesut rebutted that while these are concerns, they are not APC issues and perhaps are not EE issues. He felt that these issues should be addressed with the Academic Standards Committee. Mesut noted that few engineering students take calculus more than twice. Mesut also noted that students at UWP passed FE exam. David indicated that since other campuses do not require the FE exam, that we are actually comparing ourselves with the lowest students at other institutions.

Phil was also concerned about the quality of the students. He indicated that the students haven’t learned how to learn. This is in part because we as an institution and as a society are not expecting students to learn. Students know how to memorize for tests but this isn’t the type of learning that is needed to succeed. Phil admits that this is likely not unique to the EE department, college of EMS, UWP, state of Wisconsin or the nation. Phil worries that we are failing the country by not forcing students to learn how to learn. Phil realized that to correct this problem would require a university-wide transition. He indicated that while industry used to hire individuals with a B.S. to design, that is no longer the case. There has been a shift to hiring only individuals that have earned an M.S. He suggested this is due to industry having less confidence in undergraduate education. It was decided that faculty need to take initiative to make issues related to student quality known. Several individuals plan to approach faculty senate about this issue.

Concern was also expressed about the expanding size of our campus. One concern that was discussed with regard to the new engineering building was that the transit time of eight minutes between classes might not allow students feasible time to get from one class to the next.

Frustration was expressed about how UWP was forced to develop programs at UW-Rock and UW-Fox Valley. These collaborative efforts were not developed by administrators/faculty at UWP. This would indicate that someone with a lot of political clout initiated it. It is believed therefore that the legislators should be forced to continue adequate support such that the programs can flourish. This would include more faculty positions at the distant locations.

Recommendations from APC
1. Recognize that all is not well at UWP. There are areas where we need to improve.
2. There is not currently enough support at resource centers. Resource centers need to be staffed with qualified faculty and staff rather than students. Resource centers should receive more funding to allow this change.
3. Administration should consider increasing admission requirements.

Brian Peckham moved that we recommend continuing the EE major with the recommendation of increased resources to the writing and math resource centers. APC also recommends that the resources to UW Rock and UW Fox Valley are increased.
Motion seconded by Christina. Motion carries.

B. Campus Planning Commission
Need to review master development plan.

As we review programs, we need to keep a list of facility issues. These issues should then be sent in a report once per semester.

C. Chancellor’s plan
The next APC meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2007. We will discuss the Chancellor’s plan at that meeting. Sheryl Wills wrote the Chancellor a letter to remind him of the appointment. The Provost indicated that the Chancellor plans to be there. Sheryl requested that we receive the written report one week prior to the scheduled APC meeting so that members will have time to review the document before the meeting.

D. Program Review for 2007-08
Need to set up calendar for six programs to be reviewed next year so that programs involved can be contacted. Programs to be reviewed include Geology/geography, Mathematics, Computer Science, Broad Field Science, Psychology and Ag Education.

VI. Other

VII. Adjournment
Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Trewin