Minutes of the Academic Planning Council Meeting  
February 27, 2008

Members present: Carol Sue Butts, Christina Curras, Mike Dalecki, Tim Deis, Bernie Harris, Fahmida Masoom, Mark Meyers, Brian Peckham, Amanda Trewin, Sheryl Wills

Guests present: Elizabeth Gates, Corinne Enright

I. Chair Amanda Trewin called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m..

II. The minutes from the December 12, 2007 meeting and February 13, 2008 meeting were approved as distributed.

III. Announcements: There were no announcements.

IV. Elizabeth Gates presented a summary of the self-study report for the Psychology program. The main strength of the program is the faculty members and their close relationships with their students. Faculty and staff are very dedicated teachers who are also very active in scholarly activity and service. In the past five years, faculty members have participated in a variety of seminars, conferences, and workshops addressing teaching effectiveness and professional competence. Psychology faculty members also have taken leadership roles on many university committees and are very committed to community service and volunteer work. Several professors in the department offer service learning activities in their classes. In addition, the program implements its assessment plan on a regular basis and many departmental changes have been made in the past five years as a result of this assessment process. In particular, there has been an increased focus on career planning for students and the department will now require all psychology majors to take ENGL 3000 – Technical Writing.

Elizabeth Gates listed some concerns in the Psychology Department. In particular, TSI is having a direct impact on the program. The targeted growth of criminal justice and education majors, as well as the overall expansion of the university, has caused the Psychology Department to grow, both in terms of majors and student credit hours. Due to this growth, psychology majors are having difficulty getting into some clinical psychology courses that they need to graduate. This problem has been compounded by recommendations from the SAGE Committee to offer more sections of general education courses that do not satisfy the core requirements in the major (and therefore limiting the number of core courses for majors that can be offered with the current staffing). In addition, either part-time academic staff or faculty members teaching overloads are now teaching approximately 20% of psychology courses. It was suggested that the addition of a tenure-track position in clinical/counseling psychology would help to alleviate some of these problems.
V. APC committee members commented that the Psychology Department did an excellent job on their self-study report and presentation. In particular, the psychology faculty should be commended for the changes that they have made in their program from analyzing their assessment data. It was recommended that the Psychology program be continued with additional resources. In particular, in order to support program growth, the APC recommends the addition of a tenure-track position in clinical/counseling psychology.

VI. The 2008-2009 APC schedule and assignments will be put on the APC website soon.

VII. The Agricultural Education program will be presenting at the March 26 meeting.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m..

Respectfully submitted by Sheryl Wills