Minutes of the Academic Planning Council Meeting
March 26, 2008

Members present: Christina Curras, Mike Dalecki, Tim Deis, Bernie Harris, Brian Peckham, Amanda Trewin, Sheryl Wills

Guests present: Rick Bockhop, Duane Ford, Mark Zidon

I. Chair Amanda Trewin called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

II. The minutes from the February 27, 2008 meeting were approved as distributed.

III. There were no announcements.

IV. Continuing Education (formerly Outreach and Extension) asked that their review, originally scheduled for April 9, be postponed. APC members agreed that their review could be conducted on April 26 or during the 08-09 review cycle. The long-term review cycle will not be affected.

V. Rick Bockhop and Mark Zidon presented a summary of the self-study report of the Agricultural Education program. The mission of the Ag Ed program is to prepare students to become licensed to teach agricultural education at the middle and secondary levels in Wisconsin public schools. River Falls has the only other comparable program in Wisconsin.

Enrollment numbers have decreased somewhat over recent years, but jobs are also down. Enrollment appears to mirror demand fairly closely. (Note: the program data sheet provided to the APC likely has errors.)

The Ag Ed program’s primary strengths are due to its faculty. The faculty members are continually interacting with students, interns, alumni, and current Ag Ed teachers. The faculty members are also very involved with professional activities, including conferences and presentations.

The Ag Ed program’s primary weaknesses are due to its small size. Only two faculty members are assigned to the program, and one of them has recently been performing administrative duties instead of being a full time instructor. Also, the Ag Ed program does not have any sort of “home” for students and faculty to congregate or display relevant items.

VI. APC members recommended that the Ag Ed be continued at its current level, but suggest that BILSA try to find a “home” for the program.

VII. APC will meet on April 9 to review two program summaries and a minor.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m..

Respectfully submitted by Christina Curras