Minutes of the Academic Planning Council Meeting
March 9th, 2011

Members present: Chuck Cornett, Dawn Drake, Corinne Enright, Kris Mahoney, Abulkhair Masoom, Colleen McCabe, Provost Nimocks, Adam Stanley, John Tembei, Jason Thrun, and Kay Young.

Guests present: Patrick Hagen, Duane Ford, David Van Buren, Dennis Shields, James Swenson, Art Ranney, and Alison Bunte.

I. The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

II. Kris Mahoney motioned to approve the agenda. Dawn Drake seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. Corinne Enright motioned to approve minutes from February 23rd, 2011. Dawn Drake seconded the motion. The motion carried.

IV. New Business - Chancellor’s Plan Presentation

Chancellor Shields addressed the committee sharing his thoughts on the decision making process here at UW-Platteville. Transparency is main goal in communication to all campus entities on both academic and student affairs issues. He feels confident and comfortable with our Provost directing the academic workings and stressed the need for faculty to be actively involved in decision making process. He also noted the Vice-Chancellor of Business Affairs needs to be involved because of the financial support inherent in each decision.

Chancellor Shields mentioned several key initiatives or concepts that he feels strongly about, the first being efforts and initiatives with a diversity theme. As he works to get a better understanding of the role of all of the various governing bodies he stated that he wants to encourage and support a more inclusive governing model.

Currently he sees our institutions strengths as the ability to effectively use a liberal arts foundation to prepare professionals in various fields. He does have concerns and warns that we need to realize the limitations in building new programs that rely on State funding; it is just not going to happen.

To Support Academic Programs
- Priority items– Salaries, need to be more competitive, (all levels of university employee) technology up-to- date and maintain pace, and academic buildings
- The APC, UABC, Deans, Vice-Chancellor of Business Affairs, need to meet several times a year and then selectively meet with the Chancellor to devise a realistic plan. The amount of time spent on program review might not be the best use of this committee’s time and energy.
The Provost addressed this concept with support of this type of meeting to help prioritize initiatives.

- But she added that she also is very supportive of program review and sees the merits of the APC’s work on the review process.
  - Does not know how the reorganization of the APC duties will look but feels as a body we should look at current practices.
  - Growth in TSI managed well can get us through upcoming financial challenges.
  - Increased external funding streams

Corrine Enright asked how does the fact of the three interim Deans change our work on Strategic Planning? Chancellor Shields reminded us of the benefit of having internal folks leading us. Also the Provost reminded us that one/three individuals do not determine any decision. Alison Bunte added that the department chairs have been very active participants in strategic planning. Chuck Cornett asked about the plan for mentorship of the new Deans. Alison Bunte stated that the need for mentorship is being discussed and it is evident that a solid plan is necessary as they will face many different types of challenges.

David VanBuren added that he sees our present situation as more of an opportunity; to have so much change happening simultaneously can be a very positive experience. He is also happy we have so many seasoned individuals really being actively engaged in the strategic planning process. Dawn Drake voiced her hopes that the results of the strategic planning process are going to be coming to the APC and also shared with the candidates that will be brought to campus interviewing for the Dean positions. Chuck Cornett echoed Dawn Drake’s statement as APC action item – need to request that the strategic plan work should be a part of the interview process for the Deans and also be reviewed by the APC.

A tentative timeline for the hire of the three College Deans is as follows:
- LAE – phone interviews next week, goal is campus interview prior to finals,
- EMS – campus interviews week after spring break
- BILSA – early as January 2012

Kris Mahoney remarked he was struck by the earlier comment to “send the program review process back to the college or program level,” rather than have the duty rest on the shoulders of the APC committee. He further stated that as a newcomer he was under the impression this was our main charge and we should be both the review and planning body due to the neutrality inherent of the committee make-up. The Provost commented that perhaps things have evolved but at times this body has been a bit of a rubber stamp to programs that should have probably undergone more scrutiny. Chuck Cornett offered a counterpoint – and noted that over the past year and a half we have been wrestling time and again on program approval in the every facing challenging of the financial support dwindling. Last year’s summative report seemed to be submitted but our concerns and questions have gone unanswered. Chancellor Shields assured committee members that this body is not being ignored and should not feel slighted.
Duane Ford stated that we may really be looking at the wrong information. Perhaps we should be looking at all programs through a set of metrics on all programs each year rather than a sixth of the campus programs.

Chuck Cornett asked Chancellor Shields how he sees academic, research, and revenue streams play out. He further stated that faculty are seemingly waking up to the reality things can change, i.e. research pushed to perhaps 10% of load. He further questions, where does the support come from and how is this divided in and amongst faculty? Does APC regulate this if not who does/should? How do we get out from under the label of “lowest” in UW-System on research start-up funding and grants?

Chancellor Shields responded with the need for a plan to from programs and department to the Colleges to support and develop outside grants and contracts. Need departments to come up with ways to support growth, research, funding. Some academic areas are better suited for research and grant acquisition. The plans come from the College and should be reviewed by the APC. Research should come from the undergraduate work and be connected to teaching, not sole faculty undertaking. The Chancellor went on to state that the Deans need to develop a process so that you can plan on the independent studies/undergraduate research issues, and direct resources in a more thoughtful manner.

Chuck Cornett requested input for APC members— Jason Thrun posed that as a committee we need to look at what we really want to do, what we really can do, and what is mandated via UW-Systems. Jason Thrun also asked, at what point do we suspend the review process and maybe focus on the more serious defined mission of the APC. A lively discussion followed and in summation several APC members and administrators encouraged engagement in a larger discussion on the role of the APC with more stakeholders in the room. Dawn Drake stated that this has been and will continue as an ongoing discussion and would like to see us make a recommendation on how we move forward on the actual charge of this committee.

No action or motion was submitted.

V. Old Business until a future meeting.

a. Theater Review – update – 3/24 meeting Chuck Cornett and Colleen McCabe will be in attendance

b. Patrick Hagen representative from UW-Richland joined us to discuss a plan to offer a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences Degree through UW Colleges campuses. The degrees are designed for place-bound students who are unable to attend UW-Platteville. Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences (BAAS) Memorandum of Understanding between UW-Richland and UW-Platteville for UW Colleges Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences Degree – First Reading
Kris Mahoney asked about the sequence of approval? APC to Senate
Jason Thrun asked what is the real benefit to UW-Platteville? Patrick Hagen stated that there are opportunities to increase enrollment in courses (on-line and face-to-face) in the two categories – Global Studies and Cognitive Skills roughly 30 credits. Jason Thrun asked if the plan has courses targeted for development or are they already offered? Patrick Hagen stated the assumption is classes which we currently offer. Also, the collaboration on finalizing the list of targeted courses should help identify the benefits to the students and college.

Chuck Cornett offered that some faculty are concerned about the amount of work required and to really see no benefits from the collaboration. Dawn Drake stated the discussion with the Business faculty has been very positive in part due to the fact the courses are currently offered in an on-line format. We need to look at this from a variety of different models and be upfront on the work involved. Chuck Cornett noted the packaging is a little loose, and we also should guard against the opportunity becoming more of a mandate. Several APC members questioned what happens if no buy in comes from the faculty or programs? Patrick Hagen stated that the target courses are most likely in Business and Liberal Arts.

The question still unanswered is who tightens up the package? Should we table this? The Provost mentioned the State-wide push to increase the number of college graduates and indicated that this type of initiative is finding support by other institutions.

Patrick Hagen inquired if someone needs to identify the actual courses within the package? Also asked if specific departments need to be contacted to make sure there is the buy in needed to move this forward? Adam Stanley requested we obtain letters of support from departments that will support the initiative.

Corrine Enright questioned the contact from the Provosts office to seek buy in? Art Ranney volunteered to lead the charge to contact the UW-Platteville departments.

Kris Mahoney moved to table the motion. The motion was second by Jason Thrun. Motion passes.

VI. Motion to adjourn Kay Young, second by Kris Mahoney. Meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Colleen McCabe