Minutes of the Academic Planning Council Meeting
March 23, 2011
Room 1510, Ullsvik

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

Guests present: Jack Borke, John Hammermeister, and Steve Kleiseth

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. Abulkhair Masoom was selected to be the recording secretary for the meeting.

2. Adam Stanley moved to approve the agenda. Dawn Drake seconded the motion. The motion carried.

3. Dawn Drake moved to approve the minutes from March 9, 2011 meeting with corrections, Jason Thrun seconded the motion. The motion carried.

4. New Business:
   a. Political Science Review: Adam Stanley proposed to table the Political Science program review until the next meeting and place it under Old Business on the agenda. He moved and Jason Thrun seconded the motion. The motion carried.

   b. Accounting Program Review: Dawn Drake introduced John Hammermeister and others from the program and presented a summary review.

      Adam Stanley asked about the writing components of the courses that are offered in the program. John Hammermeister and Jack Borke responded and gave details of how writing is valued in the program and how well it is integrated into the courses.

      Adam Stanley had a question about the ranking (the program is ranked fourth in the state out of 32 schools) and CPA exam passing rate of UW-P students (49%). John Hammermeister explained that 90% of our students take the test right after graduation with a Bachelor’s degree while students from the majority of the programs do that with better preparations including taking CPA review courses.

      Jason Thrun brought up the issue of problems in hiring faculty members for the program. Steve Kleiseth elaborated on this challenge with examples from the recent past – the department could not match other offers to two interested alums (needed at least 75K as opposed to available 60K offers). The departments/colleges need more flexibility in salary and “perks” negotiations to attract high-quality candidates.

      Jason Thrun asked the Accounting department representatives to comment on whether questionable accounting practices in industry and their coverage in the media had any influence on how they teach, and if students are approaching the field any differently.
Discussion followed – John Hammermeister mentioned that courses like “forensics accounting” would be a possibility in their program. Finding resources to support such efforts would be an obvious challenge.

Chuck Cornett inquired if TSI had pushed the number of students enrolled in service courses up, and if so, how that was handled. Steve Kleiseth mentioned that it had, and also, there has been a significant growth in majors due to increased demand in industry (percentage wise 50-plus more majors; In intro courses such as 2010 and 2020 they had to open many additional sections and borrow faculty to cover those). Provost Nimocks wondered if a faculty member with split appointment could be hired to teach Intro to Economics as well as help out in Accounting - allowing reallocation of ‘half’ of that position. Steve Kleiseth suggested that a Finance person would be a better candidate for such an arrangement.

Dawn Drake moved to recommend the continuation of the Accounting program. Adam Stanley seconded. The motion passed.

5. Other Business:

Dawn Drake initiated the discussion on the future direction of APC by asking if anyone knew what was done with the summary of recommendations prepared last year. Provost Nimocks suggested periodic meetings between APC and UABC along with Robert Cramer to explore availability of resources, and reallocation of positions. Jason Thrun added that we need to look at the global picture while setting priorities. Chuck Cornett and Abulkhair Masoom spoke in support of the idea. Adam Stanley moved that APC contact UABC, Assistant Chancellor Robert Cramer, and Controller Cathy Reidl-Farrey to have joint meetings every fall and spring to explore availability of resources and possible allocation. Colleen McCabe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Provost Nimocks informed the group that the newly formed Strategic Planning committees in each college will be charged with looking at SCH load for faculty. Chuck Cornett remarked that it would be useful to find out how much additional money would be needed to bring UW-P faculty salary up to the average of peer institutions. Corinne Enright commented that if nothing was done we would see serious retention problems among faculty. She added that newly hired grant writers will be bringing in grants, but there may not be people to do the work. Discussion continued on the issue of the charges of this group. Following a lengthy discussion Jason Thrun moved that program reviews be suspended for the remainder of the academic year to free up time to address the purposes of the APC for next year. Dawn Drake seconded the motion. The motion carried. It was decided that Chuck Cornett would forward the recommendation to the Faculty Senate.

6. Motion to adjourn by Adam Stanley, second by Corinne Enright. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Abulkhair Masoom.