Meeting Minutes of the Academic Standards Committee  
Friday 3 May, 261 Gardner Hall, 2:15pm

Present: (Members) Beth Frieders, Mesut Muslu, Steve Steiner, Samira Towfic  
(Ex Officio) David Boyles, David Van Buren  
(Invited) Christina Curras  
Absent: Liz Gates, Ted Parsons, Dick Schumacher

1. Edit follow-up memo draft, come up with final version  
   - A few comments were made, minor word changes. Final version (as prepared for Speech) is attached. The letters will be sent out either the week of 6 May or 13 May 2002.

2. Discuss the evaluation forms, come up with final version  
   - Committee members were very favorable to the forms.  
   - The Liberal Arts form had a typo "summerize", and the committee felt that part D. should be reworded to more clearly include all courses, not just those that fulfill Gender, Ethnic, and International Education - change it to reflect the wording in the undergraduate catalog "when germane to the course".  
   - It was brought up that at some point, some campus committee should address the standards themselves and whether they should be changed/updated (UUCC? Director of Gen Ed?). We thought that by evaluating the courses over the next year we might have some input on this issue.

3. Discuss action to be taken about admissions information  
   (Dick Schumacher emailed on 2 May -- Abdollah Soofi is working on gathering data, will contact me when complete)  
   - The general discussion covered the following, all of which we felt should come up again in this committee next year.
     - Who sets the admissions standards, and what are they based on? It was noted that the admissions standards for Category I have lowered progressively since 1999. Should this not be a faculty-governed issue? What has been the impact of lowering the standards? Were the standards lowered to meet the FTE target, and if so, what is this doing to the quality of education at UWP? It was recommended that this issue be brought to Faculty Senate (and possibly UUCC and APC) immediately in Fall 2002 for discussion; and we should communicate our concerns to the admissions office and to the chancellor.  
     - There appears to be a concern among some current students and in the general public that lower UWP admission standards indicates a lowering of the quality of education on campus, and that we might not be as rigorous as other system schools. (See item 4 below)  
     - What happens to the overall "trends" if Engineering majors are separated from non-Engineering majors on campus? For example, is there a difference in ACT scores for Eng vs. non-Engineering, and what happens to the campus average ACT scores if Engineering is removed?

4. Discuss email from Ric Tufte about admission standards (distributed last month)
This was discussed as it relates to item 3 above. A response to Dr. Tufte should be generated in the Fall.