Academic Standards Committee
Revised Oct. 12, 2005 Meeting Minutes

The meeting began at 4:00 PM with Tim Zauche, David Kraemer, Kevin Haertzen, Dennis Ciesielski, David Krugler, Steve Kleisath, Angela Udelhofen and Scott White present.

The minutes of April 13, 2005 were approved by consensus of the committee.

The presiding chair, Tim Zauche, asked for nominations for committee officers. Tim Zauche was nominated for chair and a unanimous ballot was cast to elect him. Scott White volunteered to be secretary and was then nominated and a unanimous ballot cast to elect him.

Tim noted that he found out how to arrange for new committee members to get access to the S drive on the university network. Tim volunteered to see that new members would be connected to the S drive and to place committee memoranda on the website.

Tim presented an academic profile of the new freshman class. This was based on a presentation by Mick Viney. Tim noted the number of high school graduates is declining in Wisconsin and all of the surrounding states except Illinois. The data indicate students are funding their education with a larger amount of debt. Student male-to-female ratios remain approximately the same as in previous years. We are recruiting a smaller percentage of the freshman class from our five-county region. The student retention rate has declined from 81% to 75%. We have not increased the level of diversity on campus. The ACT scores for incoming freshman are essentially the same at 22.2 as compared with a 22.6 score in 2004. One concern is that we are not attracting as many students from larger high schools in Wisconsin. The larger high schools are where the growth in students is occurring. We are graduating fewer students in our five-county region.

Angela reported we admitted 1218 students in the freshman class with 157 of those in the TSI program. This was below our TSI target of 175 – 200.

[Corrections added at the Nov. 9 meeting: Dennis Ciesielelski asked about the ability of TSI students to change majors after they arrive on our campus. Angela Udelhofen indicated students could switch into approximately 80% of the available majors on campus]

The committee reviewed information regarding math and English placement scores for the incoming freshmen. The English test scores do not seem to have changed from the prior year. Our new freshmen have significantly lower math scores and more of them must take remedial math classes. The “standard admits” group is leading the reduction in math proficiency scores. The committee discussed the implications for students in the time necessary to graduate and the number of non-credit remedial math courses due to inadequate math preparation.
We next reviewed an analysis by Sheryl Wills on Math Placement and ACT scores. The document included analysis of the ACT scores of TSI students as compared with the remainder of the new freshman.

Finally, the committee review the ACT and class-rank criteria used by the UW System schools.

The committee agreed that we would not meet on Oct 26. The next meeting is November 11 in the Mound Room.

The meeting adjourned at 5:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Scott A. White