Academic Standards Committee Meeting
Minutes, Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Attending: Irfan Ul-Haq, Mary Rose Williams, Shane Drefcinski, Beth Frieders, Phil Sealy, Kevin Haertzen

Absent: Nancy Turner, David Krugler, Roxane Gunser, Angela Udelhofen, David VanBuren

Meeting called to order at 4:06 p.m.

Minutes of Nov 12: Barb Barnet’s name misspelled. Moved to accept minutes as corrected.

Shane reported on General Education Task Force. So far, consensus has been reached on the importance of writing skills. We need to address the number of students who need remedial education. The task force discussed a developmental program for under prepared students. The question of how to pay for such a program was raised. Also, the question was raised as to whether reading has been considered. Yes, it has.

Grade inflation was discussed. Phil recapped the information that was sent to everyone. Why do we care about grades, was asked? Shane said that one worry is that grades aren’t representative of student abilities. Concerns also have been about bi-modal distributions. If we have grade inflation, we have to assume folks are doing more work than in the past or that less work is being done for the same reward/grade.

After further discussion 3 questions were raised that group should address (through further research). 1. Is there inflation? 2. If so, why does it matter? 3. If it matters, what will we do about it? The question was asked: who’s problem is this? Employers? It was suggested that grade inflation is about quality deflation.

The committee decided to research the issue of grade inflation, further. After research and discussion, we should make a strong response to the Gen Ed Task force. We decided to acquire data on grades for UWP, then have Mark break that into colleges programs/majors.

For the next meeting, we should read the Mankato article so that we can use it as a basis for deciding what information we’ll ask Mark to put together for us.