Minutes, Academic Policies Committee Meeting
November 1, 2011, Schofield Hall, Room 202


Guests: M. Cassidy, B. Knight, J. Prushiek

1. Chair Pratt called the meeting to order at 2 pm.

2. The minutes of the October 25, 2011 meeting were approved.

3. The members present approved deferring discussion and decision on a proposal concerning McIntyre Library membership in APC until next week’s meeting when Jill Markgraf will be back.

4. Chair Pratt reported on discussions with Jeff Vahlbusch, Director of the University Honors Program, concerning the current process of approval of courses and requirements within the Honors Program, as well as what APC’s role might be in this connection. Given the dynamic nature of how this process currently works within the Honors Program it wouldn’t make ready sense for APC to be directly involved. But Honors is undergoing a process of transition and transformation in its nature, scope, and purpose, which APC will likely want and need to be involved with. Chair Pratt will invite Honors Program Director Vahlbusch to the APC meeting three weeks from today to discuss this and related matters.

5. It was decided, as a matter of consensus, after some discussion, to leave decision over who gets to offer courses in a particular academic area when two or more departments from different colleges are seeking to do so to the Associate Deans of the colleges.

6. After discussion, APC voted to change the I to a N concerning “change certificate requirements” in the Univ. Senate APC column chart on page 120 of the Faculty and Academic Staff Rules and Procedures document. The motion carried 8-0.

7. After discussion, APC voted against a motion to change the Y to a N in the Univ. Senate APC column concerning “apply for extramural grants/programs with new curricular requirements” in the chart on page 120 of the Faculty and Academic Staff Rules and Procedures document. The motion failed 0-8.

8. After discussion, APC voted to remove “apply for” from “apply for extramural grants/programs with new curricular requirements” and to replace all Ys with Is concerning “extramural grants/programs with new curricular requirements” from the Dept. or equivalent through University Senate columns in the chart on page 120 of the Faculty and Academic Staff Rules and Procedures document. The motion carried 8-0.

9. The question was raised whether it was clear to all users of the chart on page 120 of the
Faculty and Academic Staff Rules and Procedures document that all actions listed by various bodies on all of these kinds of proposals constitute recommendations to the Administration level (Dean, Provost, or Chancellor) where the actual decision is ultimately made.

10. Provost Kleine discussed issues related to ongoing work with the Academic Master Plan which she would like APC to become involved with in the near future. These include clarifying criteria for program reviews and clarifying what is policy versus what is practice in a number of areas where this distinction is currently unclear, and where lack of such clarity causes confusion as well as other problems.

11. The question was raised concerning the current written discussion of departmental student credit targets on page 121 the Faculty and Academic Staff Rules and Procedures document. Right now, and for quite some time, no standard policy in this area has been enforced. Ongoing discussions at various places across the University concerning assessing productivity, and insuring accountability, are considering student credit targets as well as a host of other prospective criteria and procedures. APC need not directly concern itself with this issue at present.

12. Chair Pratt announced the meeting was adjourned at 2:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Nowlan
Secretary for the Meeting