Minutes
University Senate Academic Policies Committee
Volume 48, No. 8     November 15, 2011
Schofield 202


Guests: M. Cassidy, B. Knight (for Provost Kleine)

1. Minutes from November 8, 2011 were approved as distributed.
2. Study Abroad program proposals
   a. The proposal to close the study abroad program in Beijing (INTA 403) due to its termination by ISEP was approved unanimously (6-0-0)
   b. The proposal to open a study abroad program in Costa Rica to replace the Summer in Mexico program was approved unanimously (6-0-0).
3. Members discussed potential “topics of the day” for University Senate.
   a. B. Knight reported on the progress of ULEC. APC agreed that the topic of Liberal Education reform would be a good topic of the day after APC has seen the ULEC proposal and decided how to structure proposed discussion of this topic for Senate. B. Knight indicated we may be able to review the complete ULEC Liberal Education reform proposal at our next APC meeting and then propose this as a topic of the day for the University Senate meeting of November 29, 2011 (at the earliest). APC agreed this should be a top-priority recommendation for a University Senate ‘topic of the day’.
   b. B. Nowlan suggested that another future topic might (after discussing Liberal Education reform) be to discuss broad educational priorities based on the university’s mission and Centennial Plan in this climate of scarce resources, focusing on what UWEC should most aim to maintain and emphasize, including how we can continue to strive to be a premier liberal arts university even in the face of reduced state support. Nowlan suggested this might be useful to take up in Senate after the University administration publishes a comprehensive unit by unit record of what has been stopped, suspended, reduced, or eliminated in response to the current budget lapse.
   c. A third potential topic might be revision in the periodic department and program review process. APC agreed it would be a good idea to invite department chairs, program directors, and others who have participated extensively in this process to speak with us about their experiences, and consider their recommendations
for revision in relation to procedures, criteria, and goals of the process, before we bring this topic to Senate for discussion.

4. APC agreed that we should aim to complete revisions of the periodic review process by the end of the 2011-2012 academic year, and that this can include considering large-scale changes in conceptualization as well as small-scale changes in updating, streamlining, and clarification. We agreed that it will be easier to do this as we engage directly in review of departments and programs next semester than to do this now.

5. Other Business: We discussed APC taking up university graduation requirements (e.g., Wellness and Physical Activity as well as Service-Learning) that could or should be changed, and, especially, eliminated. However, it was stressed that our conversations in this direction should be based primarily on whether or not these graduation requirements are or are not achieving their desired outcomes and whether they are “mission central” rather than whether such changes, including elimination, might lead to cost savings. These could be items on near-future APC meeting agendas.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by

Marie A. Stadler, Secretary