Minutes, Academic Policies Committee Meeting  
December 6, 2011, Schofield Hall, Room 202


1. Chair Pratt called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm.

2. The minutes of the November 29, 2011 meeting were approved.

3. The discussion of the proposed Liberal Education Goals and framework began with great uncertainty due to the overlapping and contradictory nature of the various drafts of goals, outcomes, skills and competencies, integrative learning materials, and a liberal education framework that were presented en masse to the A.P.C. This initial confusion was ultimately clarified. J. Fager suggested that the 2009 liberal education goals would be difficult to assess, while the 2007 iteration of goals might be more readily addressed. Much discussion ensued on goals, outcomes, and the generally accepted need for measurable student performance.

4. L. Kieffer discussed the integrative learning pilot program and the rubrics its faculty participants are developing, based on models provided by L.E.A.P. It was generally recognized that tested, effective rubrics would be welcomed by all. Title III efforts are in the process of providing us with a “track record” of successful rubric-based assessment.

5. The A.P.C. appeared to agree that a clear understanding of proposed outcomes (and the methods that will be used to assess their attainment) must be obtained before it will be feasible to propose any new liberal education program to the Senate.

6. The last part of the meeting was devoted to a wide-ranging discussion of likely faculty responses to a new liberal education framework and outcome-based assessment. While many intriguing points were raised, no motions were moved and no votes were taken. Several members of the A.P.C. opined that the committee needs to address a tactical issue of priorities: which should be presented to the Senate first, the framework or the outcomes?

Chair Pratt adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Lowe  
Secretary for the Meeting