Minutes
University Senate Academic Policies Committee
Volume 48, No. 27
May 15, 2012


1. Chair Pratt called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.
2. The minutes of the May 8, 2012 meeting were approved as distributed.
3. M. Wick led the discussion of the Program Review Process. The APC was asked to think about how APC can improve the review process. Asked APC if there is a way that we could do it more effectively. Would like to merge annual report with program assessment and could use a four year cycle instead of a seven year cycle. Merging could decrease the amount of paperwork. The APC could become PEEQ reviewers and the program review could be shortened. Suggested APC could put together internal review committee. Wick will draft a document and bring it to the group.


Kent Syverson sent Chair Pratt an e-mail on behalf the Geology Department saying that the amended motion for the liberal education framework (“Liberal Education Breadth Requirement comprising 18 credits of intentionally designed, integrative learning Arts and Sciences experiences with 6 credits in each of the following three major categories: Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences.”) was worded in such a way that it would be a disincentive for students to take a lab science class. Syverson made the case that the activities common in lab classes are considered high-impact practices and that the Liberal Education Framework should include a lab science requirement. Syverson also stressed the meaning of the word “integrative” in this context.

Phil Ihinger had put together a Qualtrics survey with questions like “Do you feel that the lab science requirement should be eliminated?” It was suggested that APC take a look at that survey. 35 who took the survey voted to keep lab science (35-3).
Phillip Ihinger stated the newly proposed Science Learning Goals and Outcomes for the Liberal Education framework, which were informed by the survey.

- The current UWEC Learning Goal of “Knowledge of Human Culture and the Natural World” would be replaced with the proposed “Scientific literacy through objective analysis of the natural world.”

- The current/old UWEC Learning Outcome of “UW -Eau Claire student will develop a depth of knowledge about the natural world” would be replaced with the proposed “UW – Eau Claire students will critically evaluate the natural world through hands-on collection, analysis, and interpretation of scientific data.

The amended motion for liberal education courses and experiences was passed with a unanimous vote. “At least one course must be a laboratory science course” was added to “Liberal Education Breadth Requirement comprising 18 credits of intentionally designed, integrative learning Arts and Sciences experiences with 6 credits in each of the following three major categories: Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences.”

5. Liberal Education Reform Schedule
Chair Pratt outlined some options for our program review schedule for Fall of 2012. In any case, the APC was asked to come prepared to discuss the order of liberal education reform items in early Fall 2012. The next APC meeting was scheduled for 8/22/12 from 9:00 am to noon, but we decided against it because of the change in APC membership.

6. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie H. Wical, secretary for the meeting