Present:  

Members: Selika Ducksworth-Lawton, Ned Gannon, Bob Hooper, Marie-Claire Koissi-Kouassi, Cheryl Lapp, Sean McAleer, Don Mowry, Bob Nowlan, Jean Pratt, Stephanie Wical, Alison Wagener

Guests: Michael Carney, Wayne Carroll, Margaret Cassidy, Scott Clark, Randy Dickerson, Steve Fleck, Marc Goulet, Deb Jansen, Paul Kaldjian, Kate Lang, Carmen Manning, Colleen Marchwick, Jill Prushiek, Alan Rieck, Jan Stirm, Jake Wrasse

Presiding: Chair Jean Pratt called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of Minutes of the 09/15/2015 meeting minutes
   - Motion to approve minutes of September 15, 2015, seconded, approved as distributed.

2. Proposal for courses to satisfy current GE Physical Activity requirement
   - Dickerson and Fleck attended the meeting to provide information and answer questions.
   - Currently, GE requires one credit of physical activity for the baccalaureate degree; Marching Band and dance courses have been identified as possibilities to fulfill this requirement.
   - Kinesiology has lost and is going to lose almost 3 FTE, fewer resources now than in the past.
   - Physical activity used to be part of Athletics; however, coaches are no longer teaching, there is a need for more physical activity courses to fulfill this requirement.
   - 209 students are currently enrolled in Marching Band. The course is only offered in the fall. DNCE 110 and DNCE 112 alternate semesters (currently 19 students enrolled in one and 32 in the other). DNCE 114, DNCE 116, DNCE 310, DNCE 312, DNCE 314, and DNCE 316 are offered on a limited basis.
   - 140 freshmen were accepted into Marching Band this fall; typically accept 110.
   - This proposal would help over 350 students.
   - Because physical activity will no longer be required once LE is rolled out/fall 2016, we’re looking for a patch and not a full solution. This is a good partial solution.
   - There are two pieces here – fewer resources due to impending VSIPS and other layoffs; there is also a significant backlog (4,200 as of February, not counting the 2,270 who began this fall).
   - How often is this being waived entirely? Is it preventing students from graduating?
     - Physical activity courses are typically enrolled mostly by juniors and seniors as they are able to register first, incoming freshmen and sophomores aren’t able to get seats which creates a backlog.
     - Colleague met with a student who cannot afford to take one more semester at UWEC; she’s been trying to enroll in physical activity courses but hasn’t been successful, she’d have to come back an extra semester just to take the one credit.
   - This is long overdue and seems to make perfect sense temporarily; there is a larger problem that may need to address other ways this requirement can be met.
   - Once this is grandfathered in, it will be retroactive for the past seven Catalogs. This will capture some of the backlog and some of the students have probably found their way into a course.
   - Students who can’t get into a course during the semester are forced to pay extra in summer and winter; we’re not providing the opportunity for them to fulfill the requirement. In addition, wellness is behind approximately 3,000 seats.
3. Peace Corps Prep program proposal

- Marchwick and Kaldjian attended the meeting to provide information and answer questions.
- Marchwick first identified this opportunity; she is a returned Peace Corp volunteer (RPCV) and feels the Peace Corps Prep program aligns with the mission and values of UWEC—internationalization and global engagement. She brought the idea to Karl Markgraf (former Director of CIE) and Kaldjian (Chair of the Council on Internationalization and Global Engagement) to help determine whether the program could find a home at here. Goulet was then contacted and it was decided it should be housed with Liberal Studies. There are six sectors in which Peace Corps volunteers can choose to focus on: education, health, environment, agriculture, youth in development, and community economics development.
- Kaldjian and Goulet met with Dean Leaman who approved the program, so an application was submitted. It will be a university-wide program, housed in the College of Arts and Sciences, but would be accessible to all majors.
- UWEC would be the only school in MN or WI to be a part of the program.
- Students who complete the program would receive a certificate from the Peace Corps but nothing from UWEC. This may be a discussion for the future; the hope is to seek a certificate so it will appear on a student’s transcript.
Marchwick reached out to two other RPCVs on campus, Stirm and Clark, who agreed to meet with and provide mentorship to interested students.

Why is this program important?

- It helps UWEC to be that much more intentional. It does not provide students with an “automatic” entry into the Peace Corps but sets them up for a successful application. Having worked with the Peace Corps, Marchwick thinks part of the reason students aren’t provided automatic entry is because interested volunteers need to complete a medical screening and criminal background check prior to acceptance. They reserve the right to not accept an individual.

- The program will involve three or four classes and 50 hours of related field experience through an activity such as an internship or some sort of relative experience in the same sector originally chosen. Pratt read the provided Catalog text for the program. It would be included in the Catalog along with other Special Academic Programs, including the Collegiate Bridge Program, McNair, Intercultural Immersion Experiences, Undergraduate Research, etc. See p. 18-19 in the Catalogue.

- Goulet, Kaldjian, Marchwick, David Jones, and a representative from the Peace Corp (centered in Chicago), met this summer. The rep is looking to add a page to the Peace Corp’s Web site that would link back to information on UWEC’s Web site.

- Don’t see this program as increasing the director’s workload. Dean Leaman wanted to be very clear that there would be no additional requirements or resources.

- Would need to come back to APC if the program is proposed as a certificate.

- Does the program get reviewed once it’s in the Catalog?
  - The Peace Corp will review it. If it becomes a certificate/provided by the University then it would be reviewed during Liberal Education’s program review--similar to undergraduate research being reviewed when ORSP undergoes their program review.

- Madison is known for recruiting Peace Corps volunteers, why haven’t they jumped on this?
  - May just engage with Peace Corp in a different way, with a recruiter. Marchwick is willing to check if the Committee would prefer.

- UWEC already has students involved with the Peace Corps, they’re already doing this without our supervision, why do we have to evaluate this since they’re already doing it?
  - Do we approve to have this relationship with the Peace Corps, do we want this relationship or not? That’s what we should be voting on.
  - Makes students think more intentionally, now they’re thinking about what kind of courses will make them better off.

- Intrigued by it, hope it is moved to the certificate level.

- The motion was made to support and approve the University’s efforts to enter into a relationship with the Peace Corp Prep program. The motion was seconded.
  - The Academic Policies Committee, by a vote of 9 in favor and 0 against, on September 22, 2015, recommends that the University enter into a relationship with the Peace Corp Prep program.

- Pratt will verify with Senate whether it needs to be reported only.


- Lang and Carroll attended the meeting to provide information and answer questions. Kent Syverson and Charlene Burns provided their comments to Pratt in advance.

- The certificate is online and is being proposed to help non-traditional students and students who don’t have enough credits to receive a topical minor. It embeds courses regularly offered online so there shouldn’t be a problem with staffing, meets foreign culture.

- Any cost difference for the certificate since it’s online?
  - Students will need to pay the $10 per-credit online course fee

- Rose-Marie Avin anticipants teaching ECON 357 online for the next few summers

- If the demand increases will it provide a challenge?
Enrollment for ECON 357 course, for example, typically enrolls 15-16 but there are extra seats with the possibility of expanding the capacity.

- RELS 100 would need additional funds if additional instructors are needed.

- Both Economics and Geology welcome the certificate and feel they have the resources to handle it.

- The pros: enables students pursuing an online major to obtain an online certificate, increases the goal of globalization on campus, on-campus students can take it as well, not only for BPS students.

- The negatives: if it does take off there may be staffing issues but could work with Continuing Ed and departments to find faculty elsewhere to teach the courses, don’t think capacity will be an issue going forward— if the demand is there, students in the section would pay.

- Since students on campus can take these courses, would it harm the enrollment of on-campus courses; do we know the answer?
  - We have students in our classes bursting at the seams now, a lot of students take online courses now, don’t see BPS as the same audience.
  - HIST 124 and 125 are already taught online.

- Love the array of courses, but have a problem with the title being very specific, unsure what it means, perhaps saying “Global Issues”?
  - The title was discussed. There’s already so much big programming on globalization and it needs to stay a little thing so the adult learners can take it, wanted to steer away from global.

- Students can take courses on campus/in person and still receive certificate

- The motion was made to establish the World History and Society: Past, Present, Future Certificate housed in the Department of History. Motion was seconded.
  - The Academic Policies Committee, by a vote of 9 in favor and 0 against, on September 22, 2015, recommends that a Certificate in World History and Society: Past, Present, Future with the Department of History be established.

- The Certificate will be brought to Senate in two weeks.

Chair Jean Pratt adjourned the meeting at 2:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Forcier
Secretary for the Meeting