Minutes of the University Academic Policies Committee

Meeting No. 10 (Vol. 51): Tuesday, March 10th, 2015

Members Present: Lori Bica, Mike Carney, Selika Duckworth-Lawton, Ned Gannon, Jerry Hoepner, Cheryl Lapp, Don Mowry, Bob Nowlan, Jean Pratt (Chair), and Stephanie Wical

Guests Present: Rose Battalio, Marc McEllistrem, Jennifer Fager, Jill Prushiek, Michael Weil

I. Chair Pratt called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

II. The minutes for Feb. 17th were approved with editorial changes.

III. Charlene Burns – Philosophy and Religious Studies Program Review
   A. The department has 4 courses approved for LE, 1 currently with ULEC and 3 at the college level.
   B. Department lost 2 IAS positions and 1 search that was in progress. Though this affects the Philosophy side a bit more, it highlights the already incredible weight that the small department pulls in terms of providing seats for GE, LE and majors.
   C. Questions were asked about whether increasing class sizes actually increases enrollment in those courses. It was mentioned that many classrooms are not fitted for more than 65-70 occupants.
   D. Dr. Burns clarified that some problems have been solved by shifting course duties to offer more courses at the lower level and fewer higher level which resulted in fewer course preps for those involved.
   E. Questions were asked and answered with regards to how SAA and tutors were used within the department.
   F. Questions were asked and answered regarding the evaluation/mentoring of IAS.
   G. It was highlighted that 2 new Eastern Religious Studies Professors have alleviated any previous difficulties regarding those courses.

IV. Marc McEllistrem – Materials Science and Engineering Major Authorization Proposal
   A. A few new courses will be added but no new resources will be required or are proposed. ABET accreditation will be sought.
   B. Questions were asked and answered about the amount of Chemistry required for the major. CHEM 115 was highlighted as an intense and advanced course. It was also discussed there is a good deal of organic chemistry imbedded in required courses.
   C. It is estimated the major would have as many as 100 students spread over the four years of study. Current Material Science majors number at approximately 40.
   D. It was discussed that the market pushes for engineering, and, even though many students with Material Sciences background are entering engineering areas of employment, their degree does not label them with engineering education. Incoming students also understand the meaning of engineering from the outset of their matriculation.
   E. Staffing was discussed as a concern and Dr. McEllistrem identified 12 lines supporting the program and discussed that some of the faculty that teach courses are not department faculty. The possibility of rotating courses every four or even three semesters was discussed.
F. Discussion of possible objections to the proposal occurred. Dr. McEllistrem addressed these fully in the document but again highlighted his rationale to the major objection: The idea that the program would drain students from other state programs is unlikely. Eau Claire will not compete with Madison and Platteville offers a different kind of engineering program.

V. Motion to approve the Proposal to Develop a Material Science and Engineering Program by Doug Dunham; Seconded by Selika Ducksworth-Lawton
Motion Passed: 9-0-0

VI. Rose Battalio – Department of Special Education Proposal
Motion to establish a Certificate in Emotional Behavioral Disabilities (EBD) 1-12 by Selika Ducksworth-Lawton; Seconded by Cheryl Lapp
Motion Passed: 9-0-0
Motion to establish a Certificate in Cognitive Disabilities (CD) 1-12
Motion Passed: 9-0-0

VII. Meeting was adjourned at 2:54 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ned Gannon, Secretary for the Meeting