Meeting Minutes

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

1. Approval of the 03/08/2016 meeting minutes
   - Motion to approve minutes of March 8, 2016, seconded, approved with minor edits.

2. Computer Science program review
   - Tan was in attendance to provide information and answer questions
     - Feel that computing is very important to all aspects of the economy; teach software development techniques, classes discuss state-of-the-art things. Strive to make sure students are employable. Department is helped a lot by the funding they receive, both from donors and the state, which enables them to send students to conferences all-expenses paid and to buy the latest software used in the industry. Students can then talk about these experiences when meeting with employers. It sets UWEC apart from Madison and Minnesota--fortunate to have a lot of resources
     - Resources are a continuing theme with program reviews; however, don't feel that we've seen a department that deserves a faculty line like Computer Science does. The case has been made here. Feel that recommendation 1 and 7 could be merged though. It's a high quality program, am aware of support JAMF has provided to the department and Confluence project, we’re at a point in time to give back to their dedication. To allow this program to compete, they need dedicated resources, emphasize that the student-to-faculty ratio is 45 to 1 when other departments are at 25 to 1.
     - Carney stated that recommendations 1 and 7 were kept separate as they were suggested by different reviewers (internal vs. external)
   - Question – Don't understand the SAM matrix used to figure out the number of internships, why so low?
     - 100% of students participate in an internship, but many students don’t register for internship credits, number doesn’t include students taking non-credit internships
     - Tim Vaughan worked to ensure that any non-credit internships students from the College of Business participate in appear on their transcript. It was recommended Tan speak with him.
       - Tan does keep a database of students who participate in internships and was told by Dean Leaman he can use that to report numbers
     - Concern that decisions are being based on SAM/PAM when they appear to be using old data, has been an issue before.
       - After completion of the program reviews, APC will discuss what they’d like changed with the process, this can be discussed at that time
       - Chairs and deans wrote reports in 2015 using 2014 data
     - Carney received an Excel file from Geology of students who participated in research and will be sending it to Institutional Research, it was recommended Tan do the same
   - Question – The reply to recommendation 2 seems to indicate there isn’t full agreement with a student not taking an internship for credit, whereas the recommendation is marked as agree?
     - The Chair’s “Agree” check on the form indicated support for internships; the Chair’s narrative response (which occurs after the Dean reviews the materials) elaborated reasons for not associating internships with credit but rather using alternative documentation means (such as an Excel spreadsheet)
     - Want internship to show up on the transcript but not have to pay for it
     - Might want to recommend it as an institutional change, other students don't want to spend money on internships either
Question – Do you have a plan for staffing? Internal review mentioned high stress and unsustainable.
   • Currently five in place, more have expressed they might leave. After budget cuts, junior faculty found out other institutions (e.g., River Falls, LaCrosse) were hiring and we were not

Is there any planning for faculty who want a sabbatical?
   • No. Tan has been on campus 20+ years and has never had one. Has spent the time building up the program.
   • Department needs the to allow the flexibility for faculty to maintain professional growth
      • Have tried to reduce the course array (e.g., offering courses once a semester) which then leads to an increase in time-to-graduation, faculty are over-stressed

External reviewer suggested more peer-reviewed scholarly publications in journals, does the department have a preference?
   • Journals more prestigious and take significantly longer than conferences; some conferences have prestigious names. Most in the department go to conferences so they can take students and allow them to present and obtain the experience

Question – Does it reflect on promotion and tenure?
   • No, we’re not a R1 school

Question – External reviewer raised issues regarding lack of ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology) accreditation, does department feel it’s important?
   • Chose not to renew accreditation due to loss of faculty, made strong case to external reviewer not to renew. Employers have stated they don’t care, the demand for employees is high.

Question – Is APC allowed to add additional comments?
   • Can state recommendations in memo.

Would like to recommend the Computer Science Department develop a long-range plan of the recruitment of faculty showing what the department would do with hires during a 5-year span, e.g., curriculum changes, think about building the program you want
   • Department has started to do so already.

Question – Per UW System’s academic planning and program review document, APC needs to consider the possibility of duplicative programs on campus. Per the Self-Study, six of the nine learning outcomes are the same for both Information Systems and Computer Science.
   • IS and CS are in different categories fundamentally and philosophically: IS applies technology to business and CS develops, designs, implements, and tests that technology. CS is also math-oriented, whereas IS is an enterprise analysis of what type of technology to use. This has always been the definition. If you look at reputable R1 universities, most of them have separate degrees in IS and CS, any combination of the two are hybrids. Employers for IS and CS are vastly different, they employ students for a specific task, and the two majors are different species, although the learning outcomes are syntactically the same, it doesn’t mean context is same
   • Would affect donors and the hireability of students if IS and CS were merged, need to appreciate what matters to employers

Question – Struck by the stress the faculty are under and that students are picking up on it?
   • The good old days of Phillips and Wick are gone, really modernized the curriculum, students were happy, everyone was happy. Now things are getting done but only working with five faculty members to service the curriculum is a challenge, sacrifice a lot of time

Question – Students were worried about grading. Do you have a student grading option?
   • Arts and Sciences looking at a student apprentice program, thankfully there is funding. Students help grade the first CS class and after that faculty do everything. Students choose to come here because they don’t want student assistants, don’t want to rely too much on tutors. They do help in lab as well.

Question – What about students advising other students?
   • Student associations do help faculty with advising, hoping Advising Central will help

It is important for those who don’t understand CS and IS to know they are different “creatures”

APC will create a memo sometime this week, send to Tan to clarify points and check for accuracy, then it will be sent to AVC Carney
3. **University Senate Technology Committee proposals to allow alternative polling devices**
   - Stombaugh, Evans, and Yuknis were in attendance to provide information and answer questions.
   - The distributed motion is a Report for the University Senate, are only looking for APC’s input and hopefully an endorsement of their motion.
   - Last fall, Evans applied for a grant through System for innovative technology – to test out a polling system using a mobile device. Evans did a pilot involving 14 faculty and 1,400 students, each were provided with a free code. Students reported that they enjoyed using it, but didn’t like that they had to pay. The physical clicker costs $55; Evans negotiated for a cost of $7.50/year for the app.
   - Question – Do we know the number of students who have a mobile device capable of utilizing the app?
     - ITC (Information Technology Commission) of Student Senate distributed a survey in 2014 (91% of students) and again this year (96% of students).
     - App is useable across iOS platforms.
     - Possibility of offering equipment check-out at the Library, would help those with disabilities or those unable to afford either option.
   - All clickers previously used can continue to be used.
   - Is the recommendation to go to mobile only and eliminate the clickers?
     - No, could never do that, there will always be those who can’t pay.
   - Concern on the wording of the motion: When using the standard polling system, students should be allowed…, change to shall.
   - Concern that the app will be a distraction.
     - All 14 faculty members that participated in the pilot said they’d allow phones in subsequent semesters. Part of reasoning is that conversations would occur informing the students of their expectations, the educational aspect. There’s always going to be abusers though.
   - Motion was brought forward to Student Senate where it passed unanimously. Ultimately, students don’t want to pay anything for it but would prefer it over paying $55 for something rarely used.
   - Concern that this forces faculty who don’t want mobile devices in their class to use them.
     - Faculty aren’t forced to use them.
     - Asked that a stronger statement be included in the Handbook indicating faculty are not required to participate.
   - This Committee was in support of the motion after the two changes are made. Stombaugh will make changes and then it will go to Senate.

4. **Establish an Applied/Statistics Emphasis within the Major: Mathematics, Liberal Arts**
   - Smith was in attendance to provide information and answer questions.
   - In response to CAS’ call to reduce the number of programs in the college’s program array, Mathematics is combining two emphases (Applied and Statistics) into a new Applied/Statistic Emphasis. Same courses, gives flexibility, won’t impact course load.
   - Question – What was the enrollment in each emphases?
     - Approximately 20-30 in each.
   - Motion was made to establish an Applied/Statistics Emphasis within the Department of Mathematics. Motion was seconded. Motion passed by a vote of 7 in favor and 0 against.

5. **Establish an emphasis within the Comprehensive Major: Art, Liberal Arts, Studio Art Emphasis**
6. **Establish an emphasis within the Comprehensive Major: Art, Liberal Arts, Graphic Communications Emphasis**
   - Theo was in attendance to provide information and answer questions.
   - Reinstated the comprehensive Art major and looking to approve two new emphases in place of the other nine emphases in the 60-credit major allowing students greater flexibility and choices. Anticipate it will be a very popular option for students. Working with Tan and Hoffman. Will require students to take courses from different departments.
   - Will need to formally ask for approval from UW System to reinstate the comprehensive major.
   - Question – Will this make any any changes in enrollment in these courses right now (capacity)?
Hope is to not see an immediate change, reinstatement of minor had an immediate response though, do have the capacity to a certain point

- Motion was made to establish a Studio Art emphasis within the Department of Art and Design. Motion was seconded. Motion passed by a vote of 7 in favor and 0 against.
- Motion was made to establish a Graphic Communications emphasis within the Department of Art and Design. Motion was seconded. Motion passed by a vote of 7 in favor and 0 against.

7. Upcoming agenda items

- Liberal Studies program review next week
- Any items that need to get to Senate by the end of the year need to be through APC by April 19th
- Possible military history minor and certificate come through the College of Business

Chair Jean Pratt adjourned the meeting at 2:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Forcier
Secretary for the Meeting