Academic Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 18, 2013  
Reconvened from Monday, March 4, 2013

Present: Professors Mousumi Bhattacharya, Nancy Dallavalle, Joe Dennin, David Downie, Bob Epstein (Executive Secretary), Chris Huntley, Dennis Keenan (Chair), Ginny Kelly, Phil Lane, Elizabeth Petrino, Susan Rakowitz (General Faculty Secretary), Shawn Rafalski, John Lasseter, Joyce Shea, Roxanna Walker-Canton, Wendy Kohli, David Winn

Administrators: SVPPA Paul Fitzgerald, Deans Lynn Babington, Jack Beal, Robbin Crabtree, Susan Franzosa, Don Gibson

Invited Guests: Professors Doug Lyon (Item 7b), Faith-Anne Dohm (Item 7c), Kathy Nantz and Liz Hohl (Item 4c)

Regrets: Professor John Lasseter, Robert Vogel (FUSA Rep)

Chair Keenan called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

1. To continue on Item 7b as in the Meeting Agenda on March 4, 2013: Proposal from SOE for new 5-year BS/MS in Computer Engineering

Doug Lyon: Additional information was provided to answer some of the concerns during the March 4, 2013 Academic Council Meeting, regarding the types of Benchmark Schools and detailed Prerequisites/Courses.

Bob Epstein: The benchmark schools in the new handouts still do not seem to be the same kind as Fairfield University. Also, will the new program require any new faculty line as a result of new sections or new courses?

Doug Lyon: Since the current class sizes are relatively small, such as 6 or so in each current class, even if the number of students doubled we are still able to handle them without adding new faculty lines.

MOTION (Paul Fitzgerald/David Downie): To approve the proposed new 5-year BS/MS in Computer Engineering Program in the School of Engineering

Susan Rakowitz: Given that SOE has almost as many programs as full time faculty and we've just hired a new dean who presumably will be looking closely at which programs are viable and which aren't, it would be an insult to that person to approve a new program just as he is walking in the door.

Motion (Susan Rakowitz/Joe Dennin): To table the motion in bold above

Motion (To table the motion in bold above) Failed: 3 in favor, 8 opposed, 5 abstentions
Paul Fitzgerald: Speaking in favor of the proposed 5-year BS/MS in Computer Engineering since it is not a new program but rather just a new combination of the current separate undergraduate and graduate programs.

Chris Huntley: Speaking in favor of the motion, but thinking some of the benchmarking schools do not make sense since most of them on the list are major research universities.

**Motion (Phil Lane/Wendy Kohli): To call the question**

**Question is called: 14 in favor, 2 opposed, 0 abstention**

**MOTION (To approve the proposed new 5-year BS/MS in Computer Engineering Program in the School of Engineering) Passed: 13 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstention.**

2. The School of Engineering is asking the Academic Council to approve the ending of the Associate Degree in Engineering (An item originally attached to Item 7b)

Jack Beal: Since the Associate Degree is a part-time program, which is no longer in line with the mission of the university and with decreasing enrollment. In addition, similar programs from local community colleges will fill in the gap.

Nancy Dallavalle: Are there any current students in the program?

Jack Beal: No.

**MOTION (Phil Lane/Paul Fitzgerald): To approve the proposal to end the School of Engineering Associate Degree in Engineering by May 2014**

**MOTION Passed: 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention**

3. Subcommittee on the status of part-time faculty (Item 4c)

**MOTION (Bob Epstein/Dennis Keenan): To reorder Item 4c to be before Item 7c.**

**MOTION Passed: Unanimously**

Kathy Nantz: The subcommittee on the status of part-time faculty has divided their work into subcommittees addressing the following issues: i) identifying the profiles of faculty with non tenure-track status at Fairfield, ii) Assessment and evaluation processes for non tenure-track faculty, iii) Time line for non tenure-track faculty, and iv) Governance process for non tenure-track faculty.

The subcommittee members include: Kathy Nantz (chair), Liz Hohl (adjunct, History, co-chair), Wendy Kohli (GSEAP), Meredith Kazer (SON), Mark Ligas (Marketing), Eileen Wilkinson (POP, DMLL), Cinthia Gannett (English), Brian Torff (V&PA, Music).

This subcommittee would like to have institutional support and to continue its work in summer 2013.
Liz Hohl: Many adjuncts are constrained by part-time schedule since they are here on campus when necessary.

Kathy Nantz: We are looking at University of Maryland as a case study. The part-time faculty members there are unionized.

Liz Hohl: They have a budget for necessary activities.

Joyce Shea: The School of Nursing has its unique feature in terms of part-time faculty. They are mostly clinical adjuncts. As a result, their special needs should also be considered.

Joe Dennin: Did the subcommittee count the adjuncts in the Math Department?

Kathy Nantz: The subcommittee is to create different profiles for different departments to meet their special needs.

4. Proposal for GSEAP 5-year BA/MA in Industrial/Occupational Psychology (Item 7c)

Faith-Anne Dohm: In the proposed program, the number of credit hours for MA will be reduced from the current 39 credits to the proposed 30 credits, plus 9 credits from the BA. The potential students pool could also come from Dolan School of Business in the future.

The minimum GPA requirement is 3.0, with a B+ or higher for the 3 required courses taken for the BA.

Joe Dennin: Some discrepancies and inconsistency in the attached documents, such as PY 545* and PY 406*, as well as some of the language on pages 32 and 36.

Faith-Anne Dohm: Yes, there is some clean up to do with the attached documents, as well as some mis-speaking as Joe Dennin pointed out.

MOTION (Ginny Kelly/Phil Lane): To approve the proposed new 5-year BA/MA program in Industrial/Occupational Psychology

Robbin Crabtree: What are the revenue implications of the program for the university?

Paul Fitzgerald: 96% of our students from the undergrad class of 2012 had jobs or went on to graduate schools 6 months after their graduation. If we combine the BA and MA into one for 5 years instead of 6, it is a win-win situation not only financially (by keeping them with us for the graduate program, even though they are going to reduce the graduate credits from 39 to 30), but also with Jesuit values and reputation.

Chris Huntley: Speaking in favor of the proposal since it will help keep high quality students within the university for MA. However, is it really a high demand in the area, especially when the students are still in freshman or sophomore years?
Faith-Anne Dohm: Yes, demand is high in this area. But we are not likely to attract freshman or sophomore students. They don't come in to psychology knowing about this area.

Joyce Shea: Speaking for the motion. Can some of the courses offered in the program be shared with the School of Nursing since there are some possible overlaps?

Faith-Anne Dohm: Yes, if space is available.

Bob Epstein: I did not seem to see a lot of enthusiasm between the lines in the minutes from the faculty of the psychology department, did I?

Robbin Crabtree: There is a new chair in the department, who did not fully understand what was going on initially.

Joe Dennin: Speaking against the motion due to the fact that there were some “mis-speakings” in the proposal, which can be improved before come to the Academic Council for approval.

**Motion (Phil Lane/Joe Dennin): To call the question**

**Question called: 14 in favor, 2 opposed, 0 abstention**

**MOTION (To approve the proposed new 5-year BA/MA program in Industrial/Occupational Psychology) Passed: 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 4 abstentions**

5. Budget Committee membership (Item 7d)

Susan Rakowitz: Calling the Academic Council's attention to the e-mail exchange with President von Arx (in the packet) from the Fall of 2012 that indicates that the three faculty members who are elected by the General Faculty to serve on the Budget Committee will continue, but the Chairs of the Faculty Salary Committee and the Educational Planning Committee will no longer be invited to the Budget Committee. The President has the right to make this change, and my concern is not about the number of faculty on the committee because the committee doesn't take votes. But as you can see from the emails, I argued that it's important to have those perspectives represented in the Budget discussions and for those chairs to be able to take information from the Budget Committee back to their committees. This year the President agreed to continue to invite the FSC chair. Does the Council want to make any recommendations for next year?

Phil Lane: It is a mistake by the President to discontinue the practice of including as least the Chair of the Faculty Salary Committee in the Budget Committee.

**MOTION (Joe Dennin/Nancy Dallavalle): To recommend to the President, on behalf of the Academic Council, that the Chair of the Faculty Salary Committee or his or her designee, continue to be invited to attend Budget Committee meetings.**

**MOTION Passed: 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention**

6. Repeat course policy (Item 7e)
Susan Rakowitz: It recently came to my attention that a longstanding academic policy, the repeat course policy, was changed in the Undergraduate Course Catalogue in summer 2012 without consultation with and approval of the faculty.

The new language is in bold below, as opposed to the strikethrough:

When a student repeats a course for which the student has previously obtained a passing grade, the new course and grade will be recorded on the transcript with the notation, repeat course. Nei ther the credit nor the grade will count toward the degree. The original grade and the repeated grade will be averaged into the GPA. The credit for the repeat course will not count toward the degree. The original grade will remain on the transcript.

Joyce Shea: In the School of Nursing, this change makes sense due to minimum grade requirements.

Ginny Kelly: In GSEAP, it also makes sense to help meet the GPA requirements.

Paul Fitzgerald: Mary-Frances Malone proposed to make the change in order to be humane and fair to students after repeating the course. The GPA will be averaged with the repeated grade and original grade, instead of erasing the original grade.

MOTION (Phil Lane/Joyce Shea): To approve the following text for the Journal of Record:

Repeat Course Policy
When a student repeats a course that was failed, the new grade will be recorded. Grade point values will be averaged into the cumulative average, and the credits will count toward the degree. The original grade will remain on the transcript and be calculated into the cumulative average. When a student repeats a course for which the student has previously obtained a passing grade, the new course and grade will be recorded on the transcript with the notation, repeat course. The original grade and the repeated grade will be averaged into the GPA. The credit for the repeat course will not count toward the degree. The original grade will remain on the transcript.

Nancy Dallavalle: Speaking tentatively in favor of the motion for fairness sake.

Bob Epstein: Speaking against the motion, out of concerns of academic integrity.

Susan Rakowitz: Speaking against the motion because grades are meant to reflect achievement at a particular point in time, not ultimate mastery of material. With the proposed policy students could theoretically sign up for an intro level course after many upper level courses in the same discipline and just show up for tests to boost their GPAs.

David Downie: Speaking in favor of the motion since for the most part, the new language is fairer.

Joe Dennin: Slightly against the motion, hoping to have better language to get it right in the first place.
Chris Huntley: Against the motion, but would like to move to amend the current motion.

Motion (Chris Huntley/David Downie): To add a condition in front of the new language (in bod) as “Upon approval of the department chair” ...

Motion Withdrawn (Chris Huntley/David Downie)

MOTION (To approve the change made on Repeat Course Policy by the administration) Passed: 8 in favor, 4 opposed, 0 abstention

7. Meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

MOTION (Joe Dennin/Ginny Kelly) to adjourn

MOTION Passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted by:

James He