Academic Planning Committee

2011-2012 Activity Summary

Committee Members:
Burton Callicott (Chair), Lynne Ford (ex officio), Catherine Boyd (ex officio), Bob Perkins, Jeffrey Yost, Kristin Krantzman, David Moscowitz, George Pothering, Joseph Weyers

Review of New Programs

The committee reviewed and endorsed the African American Studies Major proposal.

Catalog Year Policy

In an effort to reduce overrides and to shore up what had been an ambiguous policy, the committee introduced a motion to the faculty senate to revise the Undergraduate Catalog Requirements policy. In essence, the new policy separates General Education requirements from Major Requirements thus allowing students to take advantage of a new or changed major without having to change their catalog year for Gen Ed requirements or their pre-existing major(s) and/or minor(s) catalog year and requirements. The revised policy also offers advantages to departments in that it will allow a realistic “teach-out” plan for the old curriculum (and not saddle departments with the mandate to teach the old curriculum on demand). The motion passed with little debate and no objections or revisions.

Strategic Plan Review

In what will become an annual duty, the committee reviewed proposed changes to the College of Charleston Strategic Plan. The committee was largely in favor of the changes and offered only minor suggestions.

Distance and Online Education Task Force Report Review

Since distance education has been a topic addressed by the Academic Planning Committee in the past and because of its potential to affect the academic culture of the College of Charleston, the committee reviewed the Distance and Online Education Task Force Report. Dr. Godfrey Gibbison, co-chair of the task force attended our meeting to field questions and provide context. The committee found no major objections but once again underscored the importance of providing review and input as The College continues to evolve distance and online course delivery.

Diversity in the Curriculum Task Force Report Review

Among other things, the Diversity in the Curriculum Task Force Report outlines a proposal for a new curricular requirement for graduation. In an effort to gain some initial feedback from faculty on this proposal, the Task Force requested that the Academic Planning Committee review a draft proposal. Dr. Kelly, co-chair of the Task Force was in attendance to field questions and provide context. The committee was in favor of the spirit of the report and the proposed requirement. The committee did
highlight a few areas that will require some finesse and further development including the definition of diversity, the ability of some schools such as science and math to offer a suitable number of courses that will fulfill the requirement, issues with transfer students and other tracking details. It was unanimously agreed that the Academic Planning Committee should continue to be involved in the Diversity in the Curriculum planning and to assist as much as possible with implementation.

Credit Overlap/“Double Dipping”

Due to the pressure to take action on the catalog year policy coupled with an unusually large workload for Academic Affairs, the committee essentially tabled work on the Credit Overlap issue – the number of hours allowed to be shared between two majors. It is hoped and expected that the committee will address and shore up this issue during the ‘13-’14 school year.

Committee Membership

Because much committee work has repercussions that affect the Registrar’s office, the APC officially submitted a motion change the composition of the committee to include a (non-voting ex-officio) representative from the Registrar’s office. The motion was approved by the By-Laws Committee and passed by the Faculty Senate with no objections or amendments.

Burton Callicott

May 2013