Duties of the committee include considering and recommending long-range academic programs and goals for the College. To this end, the committee gathers information from administrators, academic schools and departments, committees, program directors, and individuals within the College whom are advocating new programs and goals. The committee also gathers budgetary information necessary to evaluate the economic feasibility of new programs and goals. Because of this, the Academic Planning Committee members work closely with those of the Budget Committee. They also review and respond to plans brought by the Provost concerning the termination of programs.

In Academic 2017-18 the Academic Planning Committee considered and “recommended” several significant new program directions for the College. Notable among these were the evaluation and approval of the Master of Science in Data Science and Analytics, Master of Science in Environmental and Sustainability Studies, and The Bachelors in General Studies (BGS). The committee concurred with the decision to suspend admission to the M.A.T. in Special Education noting that the suspension is the result of continuing low enrollment in the program. Of these the Bachelor’s in General Studies

In a late Spring semester 2017-18 meeting the Provost informed the Committee that earlier initiatives by the Provost to develop a joint engineering program with the Citadel and a MS in Nursing with MUSC were not progressing and that these initiatives would likely be terminated. He contended that there was an on-going need for computer science and engineering as significant program for the future of the College of Charleston and that these programs would developed internally.

In mid-May 2018 the Committee received and reviewed the Provost’s Draft of The Academic Affairs Division’s Distance Education Strategic Plan for 2018-2021. The committee responded with concerns including the need to more thoroughly review the programmatic role of online courses at the College, the specific numeric objectives for courses and faculty training and emphasized the specific allocation of new resources to achieve such objectives. The Committee looks forward to continuing review of the draft strategy.

In its deliberations over 2017-18 the Committee noted the need to be more proactively involved in the planning for long-range academic programs of the college as opposed to considering fully developed proposals as part of the final approval process. We noted that proposals are often only available to the Committee when submitted against a one-week review timeline imposed by the committee before its scheduled meeting. Frequently programs have already been discussed and timed for inception by the Board of Trustees committees prior to consideration by the Committee. The Committee has been afforded little opportunity to interact in long-range goal setting or academic program development. Further, programs with significant academic impact such as the QEP program in Sustainability and the Bridge Program with Trident have not received “consideration and recommendation” from the Academic Planning Committee prior to inception.
It is the Committee’s intention in the coming year to become more proactive as it seeks to respond to its charge to both consider and recommend long range programs and goals for the College. The committee charge calls for academic proposals to be reviewed against the vision and strategy for the College of Charleston and their economic feasibility.

The Chair will request that Academic Affairs “administrators, academic schools and departments, committees, program directors, and individuals within the College whom are advocating new programs and goals…” provide the Committee with an update on new initiatives under consideration or development so that we can better fulfill our charge.

The Committee will review, discuss and provide comments on the Graduate Education Report-July 2107 (presented to the Provost and discussed by the Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee in April 2018)

The Committee will review discuss and provide comments on the Report of the Ad hoc Committee on Institutional Identity and Vision 2018. Although is unclear how the report will inform academic strategy it has taken on significant implications for the College’s academic direction. The report is apparently being used as a key data and vision resource in the current presidential search process.

Further, as advised by Provost McGee the Committee will prepare and advocate for a significant level of involvement in expectation of the development of a new strategic plan for the College following the investiture of a new president in late 2018 or 2019.

Respectfully submitted

Robert E Pitts, Chair

Academic Planning Committee

The Committee has reviewed this report