

**UW-Madison
University Academic Planning Council
Annual Report to the Faculty Senate
2002-2003**

I. Functions

The University Academic Planning Council (UAPC) meets regularly to advise the chancellor and provost on major program decisions, long-term academic plans, and associated campus development and budgetary policies. It addresses university academic policy issues and provides for faculty participation in long-range planning; assures that appropriate review and consideration is given to requests for new programs and the implementation of proposals for new majors, degrees, schools or colleges; makes recommendations concerning the establishment or discontinuation of departments; and makes recommendations concerning the evaluation and review of academic programs.

The UAPC generally meets once a month during the academic year and as needed during the summer. Both outgoing members and new members attend summer meetings to provide continuity and facilitate the transition. Meeting notes are available for all UAPC meetings.

II. The Year's Activities and Issues

UAPC Policy and Planning Discussions

Changes in the UW-Madison Academic Planning Approval Processes. The UAPC adopted changes to its approval process for new academic programs. Under the revised process, the UAPC will consider proposals for graduate programs after the Graduate Faculty Executive Committee (GFEC) has approved the proposals. In recent years the UAPC has ratified GFEC actions as automatic consent business. However, the UAPC addresses issues that are distinct from the focus of the GFEC, and the purview of the UAPC includes graduate as well as undergraduate academic program planning. Thus, this change assures comprehensive oversight but does not add duplication of effort to the process. (For an overview of academic approval processes see <http://wiscinfo.doit.wisc.edu/obpa/overview.htm>.)

Credit Load Policies for Summer Sessions. The UAPC considered a proposal from the Summer Session deans for a new policy to define a credit of instruction for the summer sessions and specify credit loads. Specific recommendations are detailed below.

Off-site expansion of the BS-Nursing Program. The School of Nursing proposed that the BS-Nursing program be expanded to an off-site location at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The UAPC discussed the implications of this innovative approach and whether it is consistent with the nature of a UW-Madison degree. The council required that the School of Nursing provide a report on the progress of the expanded program in spring 2005. The proposal was approved unanimously.

Report of the General Education Committee. The UAPC received the annual report of the General Education Committee. The report included progress reports on various initiatives and an update of the list of courses approved for fulfilling the communication A, communication B, quantitative A and quantitative B general education requirements. The report included recommendations on the authority of the liaisons, a report of the committee that reviewed the ethnic studies requirement, and recommendations arising from the 2001-02 report on the assessment of the communication B requirement. Specific recommendations on these issues were adopted by the UAPC and are detailed below.

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Trends in Certificate Awards. A number of proposals for new certificate programs occasioned a review of ten-year trends in numbers of certificates awarded. A small number of certificates are awarded frequently and represent the majority of certificate awards, whereas many certificates are awarded infrequently. Establishing a policy on elimination of rarely awarded certificates was considered unnecessary given the low resource impact of certificates; a periodic review of these trends was thought to be sufficient to highlight certificates to consider for discontinuation.

Discussion of "Student Learning as Academic Currency" by S.M. Johnstone, P. Ewell, and K. Paulson, 2002. The UAPC discussed this paper in which the authors suggest that distributed education and the consumer-oriented view of students and parents challenge the established credit-based and grade-based currency of academic achievement. The authors encouraged institutional leaders to consider what new currencies of student learning might look like if they were based on competency standards and proposed new models, which include standardized testing for competency and student portfolios.

UW System and Board of Regents Deliberations on Academic Planning. In response to the budgetary situation, UW System Administration suspended new program approvals for the spring of 2003 and established principles to guide academic planning decisions. Provost Peter Spear reported this news to the UAPC and also provided materials prepared for the Board of Regents that document a ten-year history of program eliminations, consolidations, and implementations at UW-Madison.

Recommendations Developed

Credit Load Policies for Summer Sessions. The UAPC considered a proposal from the Summer Session deans for a policy to define a credit of instruction for the summer sessions and specify credit loads. The UAPC accepted language that defined the normal expectation that 15 contact hours of instruction are required for each undergraduate credit earned, with the restriction that normally no more than one credit is earned in a week. The one-credit per week guideline is the normal standard; exceptions to the one credit per week limit should be granted only infrequently and no exceptions to a maximum of 2 credits per week be permitted under this 15 contact hours per credit definition. The UAPC approved a policy statement on this topic and the Faculty Senate at the February 2003 meeting approved the final policy statement, modified from the UAPC version.

General Education Issues and Recommendations

A. Role of Liaisons. The UAPC approved unanimously the General Education Committee recommendation that the communications requirement liaison and the quantitative reasoning requirement liaison, respectively, be designated as the permanent authorities on campus for adjudicating exceptions and exemptions to the communications and quantitative reasoning requirements.

B. Policy changes for the Communications B Requirement. The General Education Committee recommended policy changes that evolved from the 2001-02 report on the assessment of the communication B (Comm B) requirement. The committee report focused on six recommendations. The UAPC first considered a recommendation to revise the criteria for Comm B courses to allow greater flexibility in the emphasis on written and oral communication. The original objectives of the Comm B requirement were to emphasize speaking and writing, but the implementation guidelines placed the emphasis on writing. The proposed criteria correct this imbalance and specify that 25 to 50% of the emphasis of Comm B courses may be on oral communication. The additional recommendations included enhancing placement testing to identify students in need of instruction in oral and written communication, targeting formal information literacy programs to students exempt from the Comm A requirement, reviewing and ensuring the value of

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Comm B classes that are subsections of courses, establishing an oral communications laboratory, and developing an information-literacy-across-the-curriculum-initiative. The UAPC adopted the revised criteria for Comm B courses, and accepted the report of these policy changes by unanimous vote.

C. Review of the Ethnic Studies Requirement. The UAPC discussed the report of the ethnic studies requirement review committee and considered each of the 23 recommendations.

The UAPC discussed and adopted revised language for recommendations 10 and 23 as follows:

Revised recommendation 10. “The university should, when possible, provide additional resources to support teaching in courses that meet the “e” requirement.”

Revised recommendation 23 – Criteria for ethnic studies courses. “The University of Wisconsin-Madison is committed to fostering an understanding and appreciation of diversity, in the belief that doing so will:

- Better prepare students for life and careers in an increasingly multicultural U.S. environment,
- Add breadth and depth to the university curriculum, and
- Improve the campus climate.

One of the university’s overarching goals is to infuse the curriculum in all disciplines with diversity including those where traditionally it has been absent. The ethnic studies requirement (ESR) is one of several key elements in reaching this goal. This is a requirement that all students take a 3-credit course that considers ethnic/racial minorities that have been marginalized or discriminated against in the U.S. Because issues of ethnic diversity and religion are often intertwined and cannot easily be separated, courses that focus on religion may, where appropriate, fulfill the ESR.

All courses that the implementation committee approves as satisfying the requirement must provide evidence that the course material illuminates the circumstances, conditions, and experiences of racial and ethnic minorities in the United States.”

The UAPC first adopted recommendation 6, which proposed a new name for the requirement, by a split vote. Subsequently the UAPC reconsidered and rejected recommendation 6 and retained the name “ethnic studies requirement” by a unanimous vote.

The UAPC assigned the administration of the ethnic studies requirement to Letters & Science, as proposed in the report with the following motion, which was approved unanimously:

“To accept recommendation 19 of the ethnic studies report, that administrative support for the work of a campus-wide “e” requirement committee be housed in the College of Letters & Science, as is the case with other components of the general education requirements. Letters & Science would be charged with keeping the list of approved “e” courses up to date, informing academic departments and instructors about the “e” requirement, and working with issues related to course access.”

By unanimous action, the UAPC accepted the report of the ethnic studies review committee and all of its recommendations, with the exception of recommendations 10 and 23, which were accepted as revised above, and recommendation 6, which was rejected. The report was adopted with the understanding that “implementation of these recommendations will proceed as expeditiously as possible given the scarcity of the financial and other resources needed to support such implementation.”

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Academic Program Changes Approved, July 2002 through June 2003

The University Academic Planning Council considered and recommended the formal academic actions presented below. Frequently, the UAPC considers these formal academic actions in the context of broader academic planning discussions. For example, the consideration of the expansion of the BS-Nursing program to a second site occasioned a discussion of the nature of an undergraduate degree from UW-Madison.

Academic Degrees and Majors

Entitlement to plan a Master of Public Health (Medical School).

Redirection of the MS in Therapeutic Science, and a renaming to MS in Therapeutic Science and Occupational Therapy (School of Education).

Authorization to implement an MS in Biotechnology (Medical School).

Authorization to implement a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics (College of Engineering).

Accepted the report of the five-year joint-review committee for the BBA in Business: International Business, and the committee's recommendation that the major be re-reviewed in three years.

Renamed the undergraduate major in Agricultural Engineering to Biological Systems Engineering (College of Agricultural and Life Sciences).

Added four new named options to the major: 1) Machinery Systems Engineering; 2) Natural Resources and Environmental Engineering; 3) Food and Bioprocess Engineering; 4) Structural Systems Engineering.

Renamed the M.S. and Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering to Biological Systems Engineering (College of Agricultural and Life Sciences).

Approved the expansion of the BS-Nursing program to a satellite instructional site at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center in La Crosse, Wisconsin (School of Nursing).

Approved two named options in the MS-Educational Administration: 1) Cooperative Program with UW-Oshkosh; 2) Cooperative Program with UW-Whitewater (School of Education).

Approved a named option for the Master of Engineering degree, Mechanical Engineering major: Energy Systems option (College of Engineering).

Approved a named option for the Master of Engineering degree, Engineering major: Professional Practice option (originally approved in 1998 but not formally reported at that time) (College of Engineering).

Certificate Programs

Approved a graduate certificate in Transportation Management and Policy (Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies).

Approved an undergraduate Certificate in Spanish Studies for Business Students (College of Letters and Science).

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Approved an undergraduate Certificate in Archeology (College of Letters and Science).

Approved an undergraduate Certificate in East Asian Studies (Letters and Science).

Approved an undergraduate Certificate in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies (College of Letters and Science).

Approved an undergraduate Certificate in South Asian Studies (College of Letters and Science).

Academic Departments

Adopted the legislated name change of the Institute for Environmental Studies to the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies.

Renamed the Chemical Engineering department as Chemical and Biological Engineering.

Timetable Departments/Listings

Added Collaborative Nursing Program, School of Nursing.

Added InterEngineering, College of Engineering.

Added Languages and Cultures of Asia, College of Letters and Science.

Added Languages and Cultures of Asia - Languages, College of Letters and Science.

Discontinued Languages of Asia, College of Letters and Science.

Discontinued Central Asian Studies, College of Letters and Science.

Centers and Institutes

Approved the Center for Product Management, Marketing Department, School of Business.

Approved the Women in Science and Engineering Leadership Institute (WISELI), College of Engineering.

Approved the Robert F. and Jean E. Holtz Center for Science and Technology Studies, College of Letters and Science.

III. Future Issues

The UAPC will continue to address issues relevant to its mission of advising the chancellor and provost on university academic program issues. These issues are expected to continue to include overseeing program review policies and the general education requirements; monitoring enrollment management and enrollment projections; advising on some budgetary issues; and reviewing academic policies. Specific issues that may be addressed in the coming year include the development of joint degree programs with other institutions, consideration of criteria for establishing dual degree programs (which combine undergraduate and masters-level programs), and a review of cross-college undergraduate programs in biology.

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IV. Summary

In 2002-03 the UAPC addressed academic issues relevant to many aspects of its mission as defined by *Faculty Policies and Procedures*. Those issues included changes in the academic planning approval process, summer session credit policies, oversight of general education (including a review of the ethnic studies requirement) and discussions of the nature of undergraduate education at UW-Madison. As part of its responsibility for "appropriate review and consideration of requests for new programs", the council acted on a large number of academic program proposals as listed above.

V. University Academic Planning Council Membership 2002-2003

John Wiley (Chancellor)
Peter Spear, Chair (Provost)
Martin Cadwallader (Dean of the Graduate School)

Administrative Member Appointed by the Provost
Paul Peercy, Dean of the College of Engineering

University Committee Representative
Murray Clayton, Departments of Statistics, and Plant Pathology

Budget, Planning and Analysis Joint Subcommittee, Chair
Ron Schultz, Veterinary Medicine

Academic Staff Executive Committee Representative
Frank Kooistra, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Divisional Committee Appointees (Division), Term Expires
Jeffrey Hardin, Zoology (Biological Sciences), 2005
Alda Blanco, Spanish and Portuguese (Humanities), 2006
Graham Wilson, Political Science (Social Studies), 2004
Jake Blanchard, Engineering Physics (Physical Sciences), 2003

University Committee Appointees, Term Expires
* Also a member of the Campus Planning Committee.
Dan Pekarsky*, Education Policy Studies, 2005
Joy Dohr, Human Ecology, 2006
Paul Berry*, Botany, 2003
Jane Collins, Rural Sociology, 2004

ASM Student Appointee (nonvoting, one-year appointment)
Heidi K. Hengel