

UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC PLANNING COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2007-2008

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 related developments. It addresses university academic policy issues and provides for faculty, staff and student participation in academic planning; assures that appropriate review and consideration are given to proposals for new majors, degrees, or certificates; makes recommendations on proposals to establish, change, or discontinue departments, centers, and center-like units; makes recommendations concerning the evaluation and review of academic programs; makes recommendations for policy related to new program development, program review, program array, and related issues; and provides oversight for the general education requirements.

The UAPC meets once per month during the academic year and as needed during the summer months. Both outgoing members and new members attend summer meetings to provide continuity and facilitate the transition. In 2007-08, the UAPC met ten times: September 20, October 18, November 15, December 20, January 17, February 18, March 27, April 17, May 15, and June 9. Minutes for UAPC meetings are available from the Office of Academic Planning and Analysis.

II. UAPC Policy and Planning Discussions, Including Recommendations Developed or Adopted

A. The Wisconsin Experience and Expectations for Student Learning

Aaron Brower, vice provost for teaching and learning, and Mo Noonan Bischof, co-chair of the University Assessment Council, described on-going efforts to identify and describe the distinctive characteristics of the educational experience at UW-Madison. They described the process by which a number of campus constituencies are converging on adopting the Essential Learning Outcomes as a framework for student learning. (The Essential Learning Outcomes emerged from the LEAP project [Liberal Education and America's Promise] of the American Association of Colleges and Universities.) UAPC members participated in an exercise designed to elicit articulations of essential learning outcomes in the programs represented by UAPC members. The council discussed how the essential learning outcomes could be incorporated into the activities of the UAPC and directed that the elements of the Wisconsin Experience and essential learning outcomes be communicated to faculty in the context of new program development and in program review. The Wisconsin Experience framework is described at the Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning web site. (<http://www.provost.wisc.edu/teach.html>)

B. Annual Report from the University General Education Committee

Nancy Westphal-Johnson, associate dean in Letters and Science and chair of the Undergraduate General Education Committee, Elaine Klein, assistant dean in Letters and Science, and Charles Halaby, associate dean in Letters and Science and chair of the General Education Assessment Committee, reported on the assessment of the Quantitative Reasoning B requirement. The purpose of the study, conducted in 2006, was to determine whether the QRB requirement was meeting its goal of enhancing students' quantitative proficiency. Results show that students who took a QRB course report greater improvement in their quantitative reasoning skills than students who did not take such a course.

C. Annual Report on Program Review and Low Enrollment Majors

The UAPC received the annual report on program review and low-enrollment majors. The report includes a review of the program review process, the UAPC policy document on program review and low enrollment programs, a list of programs that have not been reviewed in the past ten years, and portions of UW-Madison's annual program review report to UW System Administration. The program review policy seems to be working as intended and the council concluded that no change in the policy is needed at this time. (http://apa.wisc.edu/acad_plng_ProgramReview.html)

D. Annual Report on Grading Patterns in Undergraduate Courses

In 1999 the UAPC reviewed grading practices and, as part of that review, directed the Office of Academic Planning and Analysis to produce an annual report comparing the distribution of grades among primary sections of the same course in order to identify sections within the same course that have different grading patterns. In 2006-07 the UAPC recommended that the distribution of the report be expanded from deans only to include department chairs. The UAPC also directed that the report be posted to the web. At the February 2008 meeting UAPC members reaffirmed the usefulness of this report and offered several suggestions for possible enhancements including 1) providing an "average" variance for all sections for comparison purposes, 2) displaying the size of the sections in question and 3) comparing variance in section grades to some "acceptable level," a definition that would need to be developed. (http://apa.wisc.edu/degrees_grades.html)

E. Midterm Grades

The council discussed a report on midterm grades that showed about half of first-year students do not have mid-term grades recorded in the student information system even though there is a faculty policy requiring mid-term grades be reported for first-year students. The council agreed that the policy is well-intentioned and that faculty teaching first year students should be reminded of the policy and the expectation to provide mid-term grades.

F. Reaccreditation Project

Nancy Matthews, project director, and Eden Inoway-Ronnie, deputy project director, updated the UAPC on the Reaccreditation Project (May 2008 meeting). The project was launched in spring 2007 and will culminate in a site visit in April 2009 by a team of peer reviewers who will review the university under the accreditation guidelines of the Higher Learning Commission. Since fall 2007 six theme teams have been studying specific focus areas using a process that engaged more than 200 faculty, staff, and students. The team reports were presented at a campus leadership meeting on May 14. The theme reports will comprise the special emphasis portion of the self-study. Over the summer the core team will draft the core criteria document, which will be refined in response to a call for comment in the fall of 2008. (<http://www.greatu.wisc.edu>)

G. Course Guide Project

Joanne Berg, vice provost for enrollment management, and Jim Phelps, senior IT architect in the Department of Information Technology, described the anticipated framework for the Course Guide Project. The course guide project is intended to be a resource and a tool to enable students to make informed choices about class selection, including textbook information; for advisors to share information about courses and provide guidance on course selection; and for faculty and instructional staff to communicate

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detailed information such as syllabi, textbooks, workload expectations, teaching styles and grading criteria. It offers instructors an opportunity to clarify expectations and generate increased interest in courses. (<http://registrar.wisc.edu/courseguide/>)

H. Changes to the Academic Approval Process

The UAPC members considered ways to streamline the approval process. The council endorsed a proposal to move approval of new graduate certificates and substantial redirections of graduate programs to the automatic consent agenda. This change was also supported by the Graduate School and the Graduate Faculty Executive Committee.

I. Duplicate Degrees

Duplicate degrees — the same degree-major combination awarded to the same students on more than one occasion — are occasionally awarded to students when they complete the same degree-major program twice although this is inconsistent with policies governing academic programs. Staff in the Graduate School, the Office of the Registrar, and Academic Planning and Analysis developed guidelines that are intended to curtail the awarding of duplicate degrees without unduly penalizing students. The guidelines require that programs that award duplicate degrees will be required to implement named options to distinguish multiple curricular strands. UAPC members discussed these guidelines and supported their implementation. Many council members indicated that they would support a policy to explicitly prohibit awarding of duplicate degrees, and staff agreed that they would draft a formal policy for faculty consideration if the guidelines are ineffective. (http://apa.wisc.edu/degrees/Duplicate_Degrees_Dec2007.pdf)

J. Guidelines for the Approval of Off-Campus Programs and Course Sites

Federal regulations require that academic programs delivered at off-campus sites be reported to the Higher Learning Commission, our regional accrediting agency. The Department of Education relies on accrediting agencies, including the Higher Learning Commission, to assure compliance with these regulations. Universities that do not comply are at risk of sanctions and the loss of funding for some categories of student financial aid. Past cases — the BS-Nursing program delivered at Gunderson Lutheran in La Crosse and the MA-Library and Information Studies course site in Illinois — were handled on an ad hoc basis. There were no institutional policy guidelines for structuring off-campus delivery of academic programs although an approval requirement has been on the books for decades. The UAPC directed that guidelines be developed for the review and approval of off-site academic programs that result in a UW-Madison credential. Draft guidelines were reviewed at two UAPC meetings. Draft guidelines were also circulated to deans' offices and key campus offices for comment. After several revisions the policy guidelines were adopted by the UAPC at the April 2008 meeting. (<http://apa.wisc.edu/approvals.html>)

III. Academic Program Changes Approved, July 2007 through June 2008

The University Academic Planning Council considered and recommended the formal academic actions listed below. Frequently, the UAPC considers these formal academic actions in the context of broader academic planning discussions. For example, a proposal for the Master of Legal Institutions to implement an executive program with a course site in China was part of the impetus for developing guidelines for off-campus academic programs.

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A. *Majors and Degrees*

Preliminary Entitlement to Plan

Undergraduate major: Environmental Sciences, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (and additional partner schools and colleges to be established in the planning stage)

Authorization to Implement

MS-Clinical Investigations, Institute of Clinical and Translational Research, School of Medicine and Public Health (final Board of Regents approval pending)

Joint Reviews Completed

MA-Russian, East European, Central Asian Studies, College of Letters and Science

BS-Computer Engineering, Department of Computer and Electrical Engineering, College of Engineering

BBA in Business: International Business, School of Business

Phased Out

Three majors offered at the master's level, (692) Music Theory, (691) Music History, (696) Music Ethnomusicology, all in the School of Music, College of Letters and Science

Renamed/Restructured

MS and PhD in Metallurgical Engineering renamed to Materials Engineering, College of Engineering

MS and PhD in Land Resources renamed Environment and Resources, Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies

Master of Arts-Music degree extended to the major (687) Music, School of Music, College of Letters and Science

Master of Arts-Music degree association with the major (688) Music: Performance discontinued, School of Music, College of Letters and Science

Doctor of Musical Arts degree association with the major (687) Music discontinued, School of Music, College of Letters and Science

Undergraduate major "History and History of Science" renamed to "History and History of Science, Medicine, and Technology", College of Letters and Science

Undergraduate and graduate major "History of Science" renamed to "History of Science, Medicine, and Technology", College of Letters and Science

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Admissions Suspended/Reopened

Admissions suspended, undergraduate major in Medical Sciences, College of Letters and Science

Admissions re-opened, PhD Comparative Literature, College of Letters and Science

B. Options and Honors Programs

New

Evolutionary Biology option, within the Biology major, College of Letters and Science and College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Architectural History option, within the PhD in Art History, Department of Art History, College of Letters and Science (in collaboration with the PhD in Architecture at UW-Milwaukee)

Executive MLI (China) option, within the Master of Legal Institutions (major Legal Institutions), East Asian Legal Studies Center, Law School; (implementation in Fall 2009 conditional on the MLI program being shifted from the Graduate School to the Law School)

Biostatistics option, within the PhD in Statistics, Department of Statistics, College of Letters and Science

Renamed/Restructured

MBA-Finance, Investment and Banking, Option: Applied Corporate Finance renamed to Option: Corporate Finance and Investment Banking, School of Business

C. Certificates

Established

Certificate in Women's Studies, at the Graduate Level, Department of Gender and Women's Studies, College of Letters and Science

Certificate in Physics, at the undergraduate level, Department of Physics, College of Letters and Science

Certificate in Math, offered at the undergraduate level, Department of Math, College of Letters and Science

Certificate in Introductory Studies in Dance/Movement Therapy, offered at the undergraduate level, Dance Program, School of Education

Certificate in Culture, History, and Environment, offered at the graduate level, Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies

Certificate in Consumer Health Advocacy, offered at the graduate level, and for professional students in the Law School, School of Medicine and Public Health, School of Nursing, School of Pharmacy, housed in the Center for Patient Partnerships, Law School

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Certificate in Global Perspectives, for undergraduates in the School of Education, School of Education

Certificate in Business, Environment, and Social Responsibility, offered at the graduate level, School of Business

Renamed/Restructured

Administrative home of the Capstone Certificate in the Fundamentals of Clinical Research transferred from the Department of Biostatistics and Medical Informatics to the Center for Clinical and Translational Research, School of Medicine and Public Health

Phased Out/Admissions Suspended

Admission suspended to the Capstone and Graduate Certificates in Clinical Investigation in advance of an anticipated elimination, School of Medicine and Public Health

E. *Academic Departments*

Established

Gender and Women's Studies (a restructuring of the Women's Studies Program), College of Letters and Science

Department of Urology, formerly a division of the Department of Surgery, School of Medicine and Public Health

F. *Centers and Institutes*

Established

Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery, Graduate School

Visual Culture Center, College of Letters and Science

Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine Center, School of Medicine and Public Health

UW-Madison International Center for Accelerated Medical Imaging, School of Medicine and Public Health

Center for Sleep Medicine and Sleep Research, School of Medicine and Public Health

IceCube Center, Graduate School

Center for Nonprofits, School of Human Ecology

Renamed/Restructured

Nicholas Center for Applied Corporate Finance renamed Nicholas Center for Corporate Finance and Investment Banking, School of Business

Center on Wisconsin Strategy (COWS) renamed The John R. Commons Center, College of Letters and Science

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IV. 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 assessment of student learning; and reviewing academic policies. In the 2008-09, the UAPC will review the assessment of the general education requirements, hear the report from the study group on issues associated with clinical/professional doctorates that was requested in spring 2007, and hear progress reports from the reaccreditation project. Several new program proposals that are in development will be considered for approval in 2008-09.

V. Summary

In 2007-08 the UAPC addressed academic issues relevant to many aspects of its mission as defined by *Faculty Policy and Procedures*. Those issues included program review, general education, grading patterns for undergraduate courses, mid-term grading patterns, reaccreditation, and discussion of expectations for student learning. The UAPC simplified approvals for graduate certificate programs, endorsed guidelines for resolving duplicate degree issues, and established new policy guidelines for the approval of academic programs delivered at off-campus locations. As part of its responsibility for “appropriate review and consideration of requests for new programs,” the UAPC acted on a large number of academic program proposals as listed above.

VI. University Academic Planning Council Membership 2007-2008

Standing Members

John Wiley (Chancellor)

Patrick V. Farrell, Chair (Provost)

Martin Cadwallader (Dean, Graduate School)

Administrative Member Appointed by the Provost

Gary Sandefur, Dean of the College of Letters and Science

University Committee Representative

Jane Hutchison, Art History

Academic Staff Executive Committee Appointee

Robin Kurtz, Bacteriology

Divisional Committee Appointees (Term Expires)

Mark Cook, Animal Sciences, Biological Sciences Division (2009)

Chris DeMarco, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Physical Sciences Division (2011)

Heinz Klug, Law School, Social Studies Division (2008)

Tom Schaub, English, Arts and Humanities Division (2010)

University Committee Faculty Appointees (Term Expires)

* also a member of the Campus Planning Committee

Lisa Forrest*, Surgical Sciences (2011)

Stephen Robinson, Industrial and Systems Engineering (2008) (retired December 2007)

Elliot Sober*, Philosophy (2009)

Wendy Way, Human Ecology (2010)

ASM Student Appointee (nonvoting, one-year appointment)

Josie Chang