ACADEMIC PLANNING COUNCIL
Minutes of February 27, 2012
3 p.m., Holmes Student Center – 505

Present: Baumgartner, Birberick, Cassidy, Damodaran, Falkoff, Gordon, Gorman, House, Jung,
Koren, Matuszewich, Olson (for Dawson), Prawitz, Shockey, Simpson

Guests: Donna Askins, Research Associate, Office of the Provost; Carolinda Douglass, Associate
Vice Provost for Academic Outcomes Assessment, Office of Assessment Services

The meeting was called to order by Prawitz at 3:05 p.m. It was moved and seconded to approve
the minutes of February 20, 2012, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Mission Update Task Force was very appreciative of all the comments the APC members made
regarding the draft mission statement and wanted to thank you for the thoughtful review of the draft. The
Board of Trustees will review the draft mission statement at its March 1 meeting to allow them the
opportunity to respond to the statement. The task force may need to meet again depending on the board’s
discussion. The APC and the UAP have shared oversight of the mission statement. The final statement will
be brought back to the APC and UAP later this spring for endorsement. The statement will be presented
to the board for final action in May.

One of the APC’s responsibilities is to endorse requests for new degree programs. There are two new
degree proposals on today’s agenda, and both of them have been approved through the curricular process. After
receiving APC endorsements, these programs will be taken to the Board of Trustees for approval and then
sent to the IBHE for final approval.

The M.S. in Financial Risk Management will be offered off campus in Naperville in order to meet the needs
of adult workers. The pipeline for students is the current students in our program. We expect to have 25 to
35 students per year in the program. There is interest for this program on campus and in Naperville. As of
now there are 65 individuals interested in this program, and we have the resources to deliver the program to
25 students. We expect the program to grow in the future. When implemented, the program would need to
be offered using the cohort model, but it wouldn’t have to stay this way. Our advisory board members
suggested having a fifth-year program. Many of the potential students are working and might want to enroll
in the program on a part-time basis. This program would not compete with the M.A.S., M.B.A., and M.S. in
Operations Management programs offered at Naperville. IIT and Loyola have similar programs, but NIU is
more affordable, so we may be able to compete with these programs. Sometimes our students are our best
recruiters. We hope to implement the program in fall 2013. We want to take this request to the April
Academic Affairs, Students Affairs, and Personnel Committee of the Board of Trustees, and then it will go to
the full Board of Trustees in May. It is difficult to predict the IBHE time line. After the proposal is reviewed
by an IBHE staff person, it is reviewed by the IBHE Academic Planning Committee, and then it is sent to the
full IBHE board. The NIU board meets quarterly, and the IBHE board meets every other month so it’s
important to plan for the submission of proposals.

A motion was made and seconded to endorse the M.S. in Financial Risk Management proposal, and the
motion passed unanimously.

The M.S. in Integrated Systems Engineering proposal is the next item on the agenda. The college would
provide oversight for this program. It is anticipated some companies—especially smaller ones—will not be
able to hire individuals with degrees in electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, and industrial
engineering, and this new degree will prepare graduates to work across these areas. The program was originally conceived as an on-campus program, but based upon discussions about possible off-campus appeal, off-campus approval for Naperville will also be sought from the IBHE. You talk about offering this program in Naperville in the future; would the students have to take laboratory courses on campus? Class room course work would be offered in Naperville, and laboratory courses and requirements would occur on campus. The narrative regarding the F.T.E. and the data in the table does not add up. The provost’s office will address this before it is submitted to the IBHE. The dollar amount should be $135,000, not $120,000. There have been discussions about enrollment and a need to achieve a critical mass of students over the next five years. Three years after implementing a program we are required to submit an interim report to the IBHE. If a program is not meeting its enrollment targets, we have the option of deleting it. The program anticipates that both full- and part-time students will enroll in this program. Awarding 15 degrees annually by the fifth year may be optimistic. This is a 30 credit hour degree. If students only enroll in one or two courses a semester, by the fifth year they should be able to complete the degree. Because no one offers a program like this, it was difficult to come up with a name for this program. Systems engineering is a discipline, which is why we decided to include the word “integrated.” This program is unique in its name, but not necessarily in its thinking. Ohio State offers a program in integrated engineering, but its content is primarily industrial engineering. The program at Urbana/Champaign was renamed, but its focus is also industrial engineering. NIU’s program will focus on all three engineering disciplines. Is there concern that employers won’t recognize what this degree is? No, employers will recognize what this degree prepares graduates to do. Graduates will have the skills to work on systems level problems. The advisory committee was very supportive of this idea. These graduates would also be equipped to move into leadership roles. Students will have the option to complete a thesis, complete a special project, or take additional course work. The program has two specializations: mechatronics and intelligent systems and biomedical and health systems engineering. There are two new courses in integrated systems engineering, which will be the core courses for the program.

A motion was made and seconded to endorse the M.S. in Integrated Systems Engineering proposal, and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Cradduck

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