

ACADEMIC PLANNING COUNCIL

March 4, 2019

3:00 p.m. Altgeld 315

Minutes

Present: Abdel-Motaleb, Blazey, Chitwood, Cripe, Daniel, Douglass, Einolf, Falkoff, Ghrayeb, McCord, McEvoy, Mini, Mogren, Reynolds, Siblik, Strid, and Zinger

Guests: Donald Peterson, Dean, College of Engineering and Engineering Technology
Mansour Tahernehadi, Acting Chair and Associate Dean, Electrical Engineering
Purush Damodaran, Chair, Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering
Federico Sciammarella, Interim Chair, Department of Mechanical Engineering

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

1. Announcements

- Cripe and McEvoy attended the Executive Budget Committee (EBC) meeting on March 1, 2019.
 - Cripe was excited to attend the meeting.
 - I. There are fewer students attending the University, however everything else should not be shrunken down too.
 - II. More students are using resources than before, such as counseling services.
 - III. Decisions require deliberate thought.
 - a. For example, what happens if funding for Ph.D. students is not obtained?
 - b. Decisions should be made in advance to be prepared.
 - 1. This may not have been done before.
 - IV. Opportunities for the University were also discussed.
 - V. Heart-felt discussion about the University's options.
 - McEvoy stated that the budgetary process used to be one fiscal year at a time.
 - I. One key item that members should take back to their unit is that senior leadership and President Freeman are now taking a long-range view and proposing a 4-year budget.
 - a. What do we envision the University looking like five years into the future?
 - b. Can we make some projections on revenues and expenses?
 - c. Can we align the budget with our priorities?
 - II. There are many great things going on, but there are also challenges.

2. Approval of minutes from February 11, 2019

- First motion made by Marc Falkoff
- Second motion was made by Donald Zinger
- Motion passed

3. Discussion for approval of the Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering, Ph.D. in Industrial and Systems Engineering, and the Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering:

- Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering
 - First motion made by Donald Zinger
 - Second motion was made by John Evar Strid
 - Motion passed

- Ph.D. in Industrial and Systems Engineering
 - First motion made by Ibrahim Abdel-Motaleb
 - Second motion was made by John Siblik
 - Motion passed

- Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering
 - First motion made by Donald Zinger
 - Second motion was made by Marc Falkoff
 - Motion passed

- Peterson stated that there is a potential for growth for not only the college, but also for the University.
 - High potential for a deep impact within the neighboring community in research, education, and industrial systems.
 - High placement rate in regards to graduates.
 - I. Those seeking jobs, find jobs.
 - There are students who choose to go to graduate school for engineering education.
 - The degree program must begin to expand.
 - I. Degree programs have been in place for the past 30 years.
 - II. Based on the current structure of the program, it is the right time to make such changes.
 - a. Many of the courses are in-line with the curriculum currently being offered.
 - The nature of the Ph.D. programs.
 - I. The three programs were introduced with the idea of expanding the master's level education for students.
 - a. Graduate students will work with undergraduate students while serving as teaching assistants, lab assistants, or working with other students on projects.
 - II. Students will perform more research, train, and work longer in a laboratory.
 - III. One unique component will be the Industry Fellows Program (IFP).
 - a. Partnerships are already set in place with several companies.
 - 1. Students will work with partner companies.
 - 2. Students will work more closely with the companies on their dissertations and theses.

3. Industry based track.
 - Work will primarily be done for the companies and their work site.
 - b. Companies may sponsor students.
 1. Want students from multiple areas in engineering.
- Tahernezehadi spoke on the Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering.
 - Advancing cyber physical themes to bring faculty expertise together.
 - Future leaders in the region, in order to make Illinois companies more competitive, must have technical expertise and soft leadership skills.
 - I. Students should have a good handle on data, signal, and electronic aspects.
 - II. They should also have a good understanding on the cyber and physical components of products.
 - Navistar, a strategic leader was supportive with the proposal and the IFP program.
 - Faculty and undergraduate programs have not been able to exercise their full potential because there is a lack of Ph.D. programs.
 - Damodaran spoke on the Ph.D. in Industrial and Systems Engineering.
 - The focus is on transportation and distribution processes.
 - The Illinois Department of Commerce has identified six industries where they see significant growth.
 - I. Transportation and distribution processes is one of those areas.
 - II. In the department, four faculty members are knowledgeable in this area.
 - There are connections with various companies in the area.
 - By having a Ph.D. program, students will be able to work on projects that are more complex.
 - There is a great opportunity to contribute more in this area, as Chicago is the largest intermotive hub in the nation.
 - The cost for students is cheaper compared to other universities that offer this program.
 - I. This will attract more students that are qualified.
 - An Industry residency course will be mandatory for each student.
 - I. Students will spend time during the semester with a company.
 - II. Students will come up with problems that are of interest to the industry.
 - The program will not require significant additional resources as the department already has the equipment necessary.
 - There is a gap between the demand for jobs and the number of students graduating. More graduates are needed in this area.
 - Sciammarella stated that many undergraduate and graduate students are moving on to pursue a Ph.D. degree.

- From a recruitment and retention standpoint, students will be able to pursue a more advanced degree at NIU.
 - I. Students are already taking advantage of the accelerated program.
- Faculty will be more successful as they will begin to mentor and work with students on more advanced courses.
- Students will become more successful by going into industry or academia.
 - Will take a dissertation approach.
 - I. Companies have expressed the need for this.
 - Two tracks
 - I. One will be traditional.
 - II. The other will be integrated with the IFP.
- Falkoff asked if more faculty will be required.
 - Not currently, classes already provide a broad spread of graduate courses within the current curriculum.
 - I. Will need more advanced leadership training.
- Strid asked what type of help or support students will receive depending on their backgrounds.
 - Currently, the college accepts international graduate students.
 - In the Department of Electrical Engineering, there are research methods classes that increase presentation skills and help students with research.
 - International students are required to take an English course as a prerequisite.
 - Students are taking advantage of the UNIV 600 and 601 offered by the graduate school.
- Cripe stated that there are opportunities for collaboration between the College of Business and College of Engineering and Engineering Technology.
- McEvoy asked if there will be a significant impact on the master's program funding.
 - There will not be a significant impact.
 - Some of the funding will shift to the Ph.D. programs.
 - External funding will be available.
- McCord stated that more than one department started with this aspiration and then found that they did not secure external funding.
 - How will this not happen with the proposed programs?
 - I. This will be a challenge moving forward.
 - II. The chair should be actively trying to get funding from the industry and promoting the program.
- Siblik asked if there are any projections of overall impact on the College's enrollment.
 - There should be an increase in enrollment.
 - What is the capacity for the overall enrollment with regard to space and faculty?
 - I. The infrastructure, space, and ability is there.
- Ghrayeb asked about the impact on undergraduate students.

- There is not much of a mentoring program for undergraduate students.
 - I. Ph.D. students are there longer and are able to work with faculty while serving as teaching assistants.
 - a. Undergraduate students will be able to meet with Ph.D. students.

4. Discussion of subcommittee reports

- Einolf gave an overview of the Subcommittee A report: B.S. in Health Sciences
 - Departmental Context
 - I. Strengths
 - a. The report was well written and easy to understand.
 - b. Faculty members have been recognized for their teaching and mentorship abilities.
 - 1. They have received many awards.
 - c. Faculty members are highly engaged in professional leadership roles.
 - II. Discussion Points/Areas for Improvement
 - a. Only two full-time faculty and 800-900 students.
 - b. They do not have a permanent chair or administrative support.
 - III. Recommendations
 - a. Perform a cost-benefit analysis to show the University that investment in the program will bring financial and other benefits.
 - 1. Hundreds of students make for a powerful argument that they need new faculty and a chair.
 - Program Review
 - I. Strengths
 - a. Supports path to majors for many non-degree students.
 - b. There are three emphases.
 - 1. Pre-physical Therapy, General Health Studies, and Health Sciences B.S. Completion.
 - c. Good teaching based on student evaluations.
 - d. Strong student diversity.
 - II. Discussion Points/Areas for Improvement
 - a. A fair number of students find places in other health care programs.
 - 1. A significant number of students drop out.
 - 2. Faculty and staff help students locate programs that better align with their skills.
 - III. Recommendations
 - a. Recruitment efforts are not that extensive.
 - 1. With more recruitment efforts, the program will hold incoming students to a higher standard.
 - Falkoff asked if there was any discussion regarding the number of students who drop out.
 - I. Many students hope to be moved to another program.

- Douglass asked how the department or college is supporting the two faculty members.
 - I. Few courses are in the department itself.
 - II. Need four tenure-track faculty, one instructor, and a chair.
 - III. The college advises the students.
 - a. Ghrayeb stated that there are advisors within the school, but not the department.
 - 1. Advising is not the same for each college, but the outcome is uniform.
- Daniel gave an overview of the Subcommittee A report from the November 26, 2018 meeting: B.S.Ed. in Middle Level Teaching and Learning, B.S.Ed. in Elementary Education, and M.S.Ed. in Literacy Education.
 - Overview
 - I. B.S.Ed. in Middle Level Teaching and Learning
 - a. This is a new program.
 - b. In Spring 2018, 15 degrees were conferred.
 - II. M.S.Ed in Literacy Education
 - a. ESL/Bilingual unit which makes the program very marketable.
 - b. Having the online component makes the program flexible.
 - 1. This helps meet geographical challenges.
 - Departmental Context
 - I. Strengths
 - a. Strong program with high demand.
 - b. Good reputation with accreditation and assessment procedures.
 - c. Satisfied with faculty's scholarly production.
 - d. Strong community outreach and partnerships.
 - e. Commitment to engaged learning.
 - 1. Eight middle level teacher candidates participated in Educate US and Educate Global.
 - Students travel to teach.
 - II. Discussion Points
 - a. Happy to have an online component for the M.S.Ed. in Literacy Education.
 - 1. The program has two distinct units.
 - Bilingual/ESL and Reading.
 - b. For the Specific ESL Endorsement program, they have collaborative partnerships with District U-46 in Elgin, an Ed.D. cohort at NIU Hoffman Estates, and Project Dreams.
 - 1. Multiple cohorts are part of the Project Dreams.
 - 2. A professional development grant has supported this project.
 - 3. Enroll administrators and teachers from various schools.

4. The focus of this project is to create cultural understanding and promote English as a Second Language among elementary schools.
- c. Diversity focused.
 - d. Jerry L. Johns Literacy Clinic addresses community needs for local K-12 youth.
 - e. Programs are very flexible due to the online component and two endorsement areas.
 1. Meeting geographical needs.
 - f. Using a professional advising committee for recruitment.
 - g. Director of marketing also helps with student enrollment.
 - h. Graduate salary is low and this is a challenge to attract new students.
 - i. Help students apply for jobs and prepare resumes.
 1. Trains students for co-teaching to find employment.
 2. Have collaborate partnerships in place that help graduates find jobs.
 - j. New cohort at Elgin Community College for the B.S.Ed. in Elementary Education.
 1. The first cohort is expected to begin in the Fall of 2019-2020.
 2. In the process of developing a partnership in Kildeer that will be hybrid.
 - k. For the M.S.Ed. in Literacy Education they already have cohorts in Hoffman Estates and Naperville.
 1. Will start a new one in Naperville in the Fall of 2019-2020.
 - l. Pleased with the new Chair, Sally Blake.
 - m. Plan to look for more grant funding in areas of bilingual education.
 - n. Offer Social Justice Camps.
 - o. Will start an urban residency program.
- III. Recommendations
- a. Promote Intra-disciplinary collaboration within the University for internal or external research grants to support funding for presentations for faculty.
 - b. Seeking grant opportunities for funding to develop more electives online.
- B.S.Ed. in Elementary Education
 - I. Strengths
 - a. Using doctoral students to help in the program
 - II. Discussion Points
 - a. Working with Center for Black Studies for more diversity.
 1. Seek strategies to attract Latino population.
 - B.S.Ed. in Middle Level Teaching and Learning
 - I. Strengths

- a. In Spring 2018, first cohort with 100% pass rate for subject specific edTPA assessment in Mathematics and Science.
- II. Discussion Points
 - a. Plan to offer more online courses.
- M.S.Ed. in Literacy Education
 - I. Discussion Points
 - a. Plan to offer more online courses.
 - b. Using doctoral students as adjuncts.

5. Other Business

- Subcommittee B will meet on March 18, 2019.
- Mogren mentioned that there should be a discussion of why the APC completes such reports at the debriefing.
 - What is the purpose of doing this exercise?
 - Why we do it and how we can do it better?

Meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Crystal Doyle and Jessica Jaimes