

ACADEMIC PLANNING COUNCIL

October 15, 2018

3:00 p.m. Altgeld 315

Minutes

Present: Chitwood, Cripe, Douglass, Einolf, Gordon, McCord, McEvoy, Mini, Mogren, Reynolds, Siblik, Strid, and Zinger

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

1. Announcements

- Douglass welcomed new APC member Donald Zinger, who is from the Department of Electrical Engineering in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology and a new member of APC.
- Everyone went around the room and introduced themselves.

2. Approval of minutes from September 24, 2018

- First motion made by John Evar Strid
- Second motion was made by Chad McEvoy
- Motion passed

3. Discussion of subcommittee reports

- Gordon gave an overview of the Subcommittee A report: M.S.T. – Mathematics Education
 - Departmental Context
 - I. Strengths
 - a. First program of this type in the University.
 - b. Faculty members are actively involved in research activities.
 - c. The program has a strong record of award-winning faculty.
 - II. Discussion Points/Areas of Improvement
 - a. The program prioritization narrative was written by the engineering faculty but now used in math education.
 - 1. Data available did not identify who was in the program or who had graduated.
 - b. There are two College of Education courses that are shared with other NIU graduate students.
 - c. Many teachers were losing their jobs as the state was tightening with education spending.
 - 1. Now, there has been a reversal as there is a tremendous need for teachers.
 - d. The program has lost momentum overtime.
 - 1. The program began as a cohort, where about 20-30 students were graduating a year.
 - 2. Over the last several years, there have been zero graduates.

- Reynolds provided a dashboard which indicated there were zero graduates over the last several years.
 - Now the program has not been taught as cohort. Students are taking classes with other students.
 - The program is unsure of how many students they have been getting in a year and if tuition and fees were being paid by individual students, school districts, or other entities.
- e. There is no plan for online course offerings.
- f. The state need for faculty is increasing and the program is envisioning a more robust recruiting campaign by calling and visiting different high schools.
- g. The program does not cost anything.
 1. Douglass asked how the program does not cost anything.
 2. Mogren mentioned that classes are offered on a regular basis for everyone else.
- h. McCord asked in what sense does the program have students.
- i. Douglass mentioned this degree and the M.A.T. used to be university level degrees, but program prioritization relocated them to a lower level.
 1. Currently, the Math department is the only one that offers this degree.
 2. Reynolds mentioned the last degree conferred was for one student in fiscal year 2015.
- j. Douglass stated that after reviewing a program the default is to review it again in eight years if it is in good standing and asked if this program should be reviewed in eight years or sooner.
 1. McEvoy asked what other options exists for the program.
 - Douglass stated that the APC can recommend for a program to be eliminated and check on the program in some period of time before eight years for follow-up.
 - Gordon commented that he would like to hear in two years if anything has changed based on the recommendations.
- k. McEvoy stated the marketing and time spent will cost the program.
 1. McCord mentioned that the time and effort spent on the program review was a use of recourses.
- l. The department is not sure of how many students are currently enrolled in the program.
- m. Douglass asked what the college associate dean's take was on the program.

1. Gordon stated her take was pro.
 2. This is a good option for students to have and the program can grow with marketing and advertising.
 3. Chitwood mentioned the program does not offer any graduate assistantships.
- n. McCord mentioned that the state has expectations and requirements and if three students had graduated in the past, then the program is considered a low performing program.
 1. Douglass mentioned the state requires this to be reported. The option of an explanation is also given.
 - o. McCord stated that the whole point of this program is for people who have the disciplinary credentials, but not the teaching credentials and who want to get licensed.
 1. Are there comparable programs in the state or is there a demand anywhere for programs of this type?
 2. Do we have other pathways to credentials/licensures?
 - p. McEvoy asked about the program's marketing plan.
 1. Gordon mentioned that there is no real marketing plan, but demand is starting to pick up.
- III. Recommendations for the Future
- a. Promote the program and offer online courses.
 - b. If there are real costs involved with this program, shut it down.
 - c. Provide pro forma revenue budgets.
- o M.S.T.
- I. Strengths
 - a. The program has a partnership with the community, school districts, and works well to recruit adults to the teaching profession.
 - b. The program remains optimistic despite the loss of faculty members.
 - II. Discussion Points/Areas of Improvement
 - a. The program was developed for experienced teachers and to meet state requirements.
 - b. There's only a couple students left in the program, but the department wants to retain the program because it does not incur additional costs.
 1. The program is not asking for additional faculty.
 2. If the program draws in several students it will be a net benefit to NIU.
 - III. Recommendations for the Future
 - a. Douglass mentioned a recommendation in the report which states, "Promote the validity of the degree particularly with the change in middle school licensure with the ISBE." and asked if it is viable in terms of enrollment.

1. Douglass asked if the committee would like to see a report in two years, three years, or in eight years.
 - Gordon stated that he would like to see a report in two years.
- b. Douglass asked if a motion can be made to ask for a report in two or three years.
 1. First motion made by Geoffrey Gordon for a report in three years.
 2. Second motion made by Judy Chitwood
 3. Motion discussions
 - McEvoy stated he would like to see a report in two years instead of three.
 - McEvoy also stated he would like to see robust enrollments or a strong plan to gain enrollments in two years.
 - Reynolds mentioned there are zero students currently enrolled in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences portion.
 - Douglass commented that the catalog is asked to be cleaned up not only to keep it nice and neat, but also because it can be misleading to students.
 - Chitwood mentioned that the program is unique to the state and asked if enrollment can be increased.
 - Douglass asked if the APC would like a report in two years per a friendly amendment of the motion by McEvoy.
 - Mogren mentioned to give the program a year and a half for marketing and outreach.
 - The APC would like a report in 2020-2021.
 - Strid stated that the language in the catalog is very limited and focused.
 - Strid recommended they revisit the catalog language and the program's marketing to specify and make sure the language is correct.
 - Mogren mentioned the program had many students when they had a grant. Students and teachers are concerned they would not find jobs during the economy's downturn; can we recapture the demand without grant supports?
 - Historically, the program has been successful.
- c. Motion passed for a report in two years, 2020-2021, related to enrollment plans, marketing, etc.

- Cripe gave an overview of the Subcommittee B report: B.S. in Kinesiology and M.S. in Sport Management.
 - B.S. in Kinesiology
 - I. Overview
 - a. Currently, in terms of enrollment one third are females, two thirds are male, 50% are minority student groups.
 - b. Conferred degrees increased by about 80% from 2013.
 - c. The program is relatively selective, admitting roughly 66% of freshman and 75% of transfer applicants.
 - II. Strengths
 - a. There is a focus on strategic planning.
 - 1. Visual graphics were presented.
 - This demonstrated commitment to the long-term plan.
 - 2. There is a great cost per credit hour.
 - The program is very efficient.
 - b. The program is not afraid of change.
 - 1. Courses will be offered online.
 - 2. “We have been able to become much more efficient without sacrificing the ability for faculty and staff to receive communication and provide input.”
 - c. There is a strong focus on protecting pre-tenured faculty members from too much services.
 - d. Efforts are in place to obtain external funding.
 - e. There is a track-record in research and artistry.
 - f. College of Education Dean’s Office stated, “This is a program to bet on and win.”
 - III. Challenges/Areas of Improvement/Discussion Points
 - a. The department received \$100,000 to remodel a room in Anderson Hall.
 - 1. No work has been completed due to bureaucratic issues.
 - 2. McEvoy mentioned that \$110,000 was received a year ago for this particular project.
 - Last November, a request was submitted for architecture work costs.
 - No response has been received yet.
 - b. Faculty teach 3-3 teaching loads.
 - 1. This is a faculty retention issue.
 - c. Faculty share offices.
 - 1. This is unimpressive to new hires.
 - d. The program is very broad and there are many opportunities for students.
 - 1. Unsure if the degree should belong in the College of Education.

- e. The program is not accredited since there is no accreditation body relevant to the field.
 - 1. McEvoy mentioned accrediting and licensure typically go hand in hand.
 - 2. Students pursuing careers in Kinesiology do not need a license.
- IV. Recommendations for the Future
 - a. Continue to focus on alumni support, outreach and engagement.
 - b. Continue 2+2 relationships with community colleges.
 - c. The program needs to continue to advocate for support from the University and College of Education.
- M.S. in Sports Management
 - I. Overview
 - a. There is much experiential learning in the program.
 - b. There are about 59 students enrolled in the program with 41 males and 18 females.
 - 1. There is also a minority representation.
 - c. Degrees conferred in 2013 were about 18 and have increased to 31 in 2017.
 - I. Strengths
 - a. The program tries to get students connected with various sports teams in the Chicagoland area.
 - b. Students are taken to Colorado Springs, Olympic Training Facility, and the NCAA facility in Indianapolis.
 - c. The program has strong ties to the College of Business.
 - d. “The future of the Sport Management program is very bright.”
 - e. There are strong ties to NIU Athletics.
 - f. Faculty have experience and applied research in this program.
 - II. Challenges/Areas of Improvement/Discussion Points
 - a. The B.S. in Sports Management is not a feeder to the M.S. degree.
 - b. Unsure if the degree belongs in the College of Education.
 - c. There is a lack of accreditation because there is no relevant accrediting body.
 - d. Continue to seek out ways to use differential tuition dollars to improve the program.

4. 2018 Program Review Findings Report

- Douglass stated that this is the summary report that is sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) informing them of what has been done throughout the year in program review.
- It is also shared with NIU’s Board of Trustees.
- Last year, 2017-2018, the APC looked at twenty-two academic programs and one center.
 - The default is that programs will be recommended for an eight-year cycle.

- The report includes four separate areas: major changes in the program, major findings and recommendations, actions taken since the last review, and actions taken as a result of this review.
 - I. The four sections, along with a decision of what will happen next is summarized in the report.
- This report is the evidence and summary of the Program Review process that has occurred in program review.
 - It is not the process itself.
- Last year the B.S. in Athletic Training program was recognized as being phased out.
 - There is an assessment of student learning outcomes as students are taught out.
- All of the programs related to engineering are in good standing and will be reviewed in 6 years.
 - This is to align with the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology accreditation cycle.
- The B.S. in Medical Laboratory Sciences will be reviewed in seven years to align with their accreditation cycle.
- There were some concerns regarding assessment with the B.S. and M.S. in Computer Science.
 - The programs are in good standing and will be reviewed in eight years, but a follow-up report on assessment in 2021-2022 was requested and will be due to the University Assessment Panel.
- The only center that was reviewed last year was the Microelectronics Research and Development Laboratory.
 - The center is in good standing, but no further reviews will be conducted.
 - Although this has been on the list, the IBHE does not recognize it as a formal center and it has been removed from the cycle moving forward.
- McCord stated that Douglass has been raising issues to the IBHE about what must be reported as a center and what items when reaching a certain level require reporting.
 - There are functional definitions of a center, it is the functional definition not the title that matters. Whether you call it a center, does not matter. The University is responsible for applying that test.
 - I. The IBHE has stated what the categories are and now the University must say if a center or entity is at such level.
 - II. For research centers, the University must exercise discretion for which meet the standards and which do not.
 - Reynolds asked if the definition includes dollar amounts.
 - I. McCord stated the definition does not have quantified thresholds.
 - II. Douglass mentioned that Blazey will come to the APC to review the center reviews that have happened in his division which will clear off some items for the APC to review.
 - III. McCord mentioned there was a definition provided for certificates.
 - a. If a certificate shows up on a transcript, the IBHE expects to be notified.

- b. The IBHE can approve a certificate, but it does not have to be approved.

5. Other Business

- Douglass asked if the subcommittee chairs for the meetings on Monday, October 22, 2018 would like materials due by a specific date.
 - McEvoy has already sent an email to Subcommittee A regarding materials.
 - I. Materials are due Wednesday, October 17, 2018.
 - Strid stated he would like materials from Subcommittee B as soon as possible, Friday, October 19, 2018 at the latest.
- Reynolds mentioned he will be present at both meetings.
- Douglass offered to be present at the meetings if subcommittee chairs would like.

Meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Crystal Doyle and Jessica Jaimes