

ACADEMIC PLANNING COUNCIL

November 5, 2018

3:00 p.m. Altgeld 315

Minutes

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

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

1. Announcements

- Douglass mentioned that one of the duties related to the APC is to prepare and periodically update NIU's academic mission statement.
 - The President, Lisa Freeman, has requested a review and revision of the mission.
 - This should be completed between now and February 20, 2019.
 - Individuals will be asked if they are interested in participating.
 - The President will put together an ad hoc group.
 - I. Roughly about three members from the APC.
 - II. There will be many meetings in January and February in order to have a draft ready to share with the campus community and President by mid-February and with the BOT on March 7, 2019.
 - Anyone who is interested in participating should inform Douglass by Friday, November 9, 2018 to be considered for invitation to participate.
 - I. Abdel-Motaleb and Falkoff both expressed interest.

2. Approval of minutes from October 15, 2018

- First motion made by Abdel-Motaleb
- Second motion was made by Strid
- Motion passed

3. Discussion of subcommittee reports

- McEvoy gave an overview of the Subcommittee A report: Juris Doctor (J.D.)
 - J.D.
 - I. Overview
 - a. The Program is a 90 credit hour, three-year program intended for students seeking a law degree.
 - b. The program has been very active in developing accelerated programs with colleges across campus in terms of 3+3 programs.
 - 1. Students can complete a B.S. and J.D. in six years instead of seven.
 - c. The program also offers certificate options and dual degree programs with the Business Administration and Public Administration programs.
 - I. Strengths

- a. Excellent reputation
 - b. Strong job placement rates
 - 1. Strong job placement rates and secure employment for students upon graduation.
- II. Areas of Improvement/Discussion Points
- a. There has been a moderate decline in enrollment.
 - 1. The state and institution has experienced a decline in higher education enrollment.
 - 2. The College of Law controls its admission, maintaining strong standards for incoming students for enrollment is a strong factor for the University.
 - b. The program should continue to grow its brand/reputation.
 - c. There has been a decline in faculty lines in the budget.
- III. Recommendations for Future
- a. Maintain a strong brand
 - 1. Maintaining solid enrollments, but ensuring the admission standards are not compromised.
 - b. Continuing effort to collaborate across campus.
 - c. Explore opportunities for dual degree programs outside of NIU.
 - 1. Creating 3+3 programs outside of NIU.
 - d. Maintaining a diverse student body.
 - 1. The student body in the program is not as diverse as the program would like.
 - e. Expand portfolio by offering an online master's program.
- IV. Douglass asked if 3+3 ventures within NIU have been successful in the past.
- a. Falkoff mentioned that NIU currently does have 3+3 programs across the University.
 - 1. One student has completed the program, passed the Bar exam, and is now employed.
 - 2. There is a handful of students who are in the top-third of the class.
 - b. Students have not taken advantage of this opportunity because they are relatively new and targeted advising has not occurred.
 - c. The program is currently trying to expand 3+3 programs across the University.
 - 1. Partnering with the Honors Program.
 - The Honors Program will take responsibility for advertising and advising students.
 - d. Currently, there are three tentative agreements with other institutions.
 - 1. For example, two of the institutions are going to be Eastern Illinois University and University of Indiana.
 - 2. This helps to build relationships with institutions.

- V. Abdel-Motaleb asked if the program requires the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT).
 - a. This is required for the 3+3 program and all students.
 - b. ABA allows students to take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) if an institutions Law School has completed a study indicating that their GRE predicts law student success as the LSAT does.
 - c. Looking at partnering with one or two other institutions to determine if the GRE would be predictor for NIU.
 - d. Certain students from their home institution can enroll without taking the LSAT, but must have scored in the top tenth-fifteenth percentile for the American College Test or the Scholastic Aptitude Test and must have a 3.5 GPA or be in the top ten percent of their class.
 - e. Cannot waive the LSAT because of accreditation requirements.
- VI. Douglass asked about a potential Master's of Jurisprudence (M.J.) Degree.
 - a. Falkoff mentioned a number of schools across the country have master's programs.
 - b. The program would consist of 30 credit hours.
 - c. Three concentrations will be offered.
 - 1. Criminal Law, Business Law, and Public Administration
 - 2. This degree is not to practice law or get a head start on a J.D.
 - 3. The program would be online
 - NIU would not be pioneers, as there are similar programs across the country.
 - Faculty will develop the courses, deliver them once, and then hand off to adjuncts.
 - Hope to start in the Spring of 2019-2020.
 - Costs would be below all other options for online learning in such context.
 - Concentrations are relatively unique.
 - d. Abdel-Motaleb asked if funds are required to start this program.
 - 1. The University is offering to provide expertise and access to online developers.
 - 2. The University is also offering to take responsibility for some of the additional pays and adjunct salaries.
 - 3. This program will bring in significant revenue to the University.
 - e. Siblik asked if there have been discussions with departments such as the Department of Sociology, Department of Business

Administration and Department of Public Administration about some of the courses they could offer the students.

1. There have been discussions with the Department of Business Administration and the Department of Public Administration.

- Strid gave an overview of the Subcommittee B report: B.S. and M.S. in Communicative Disorders and Doctor of Audiology
 - Departmental Context
 - I. Overview
 - a. Degrees are housed within the College of Health and Human Sciences.
 - b. High job placements for graduate students.
 - c. Selective with acceptance.
 - d. Good mix of students.
 - II. Strengths
 - a. Well-credential faculty, nationally recognized for quality.
 - b. Degrees are very marketable as the programs provide services that are important to the community.
 - c. Strong connections with alumni at the graduate level, as undergraduate students typically must pursue a graduate degree.
 - III. Challenges/Areas for Improvement/Discussion Points
 - a. The programs have difficulties with faculty turnover.
 1. The success of recruiting faculty is problematic.
 2. There is a shortage of Ph.D. candidates.
 3. Staff shortages lead to limitations on what the programs can accomplish.
 - b. Programs have equipment issues, particularly Audiology with obsolesce, replacement, and maintenance issues.
 - c. There is competition with other programs for external clinical placement acts, particularly the Audiology program as it competes with other programs for placement.
 - d. High costs associated with the clinic.
 - IV. Douglass asked if there was any discussion on hospital affiliations as the programs are not receiving lower insurance disbursement rates.
 - a. Abdel-Motaleb stated that this will be discussed in the next APC meeting on November 26, 2018.
 - B.S. and M.S. in Communicative Disorders
 - I. Strengths
 - a. Excellence in teaching is recognized.
 - b. Connections with peer tutoring and articulation with community colleges.

- c. The programs are working with Advising to increase enrollment rates, ensure students are a good fit, and offer advice on how to apply the degrees after completion.
 - d. The programs are working with the Honors Program to create a direct admit option.
 - e. The undergraduate program has a good record of placing students in graduate programs.
 - f. Close faculty-student research partnerships, supportive alumni networks, and high retention rates for enrolled students.
 - II. Challenges/Areas for Improvement/Discussion Points
 - a. The programs have low credit hour production because most of the courses are within the 300-400 level with lower enrollments.
 - b. Increase alumni networks with former undergraduate students.
 - c. Increase staff productivity in the areas of research and grants.
 - d. The programs need help with staffing, as it prevents acceptance for a large number of students.
 - e. Ensure all students have the full range of practice in all areas.
 - f. Increase enrollment.
- Doctor of Audiology
 - I. Strengths
 - a. Stable enrollments.
 - b. Strong retention.
 - c. Students are very dedicated.
 - 1. The program uses cohort models, where students are very supportive of one another.
 - d. Increased program ranking.
 - II. Challenges/Areas for Improvement/Discussion Points
 - a. Equipment issues such as obsolesce, replacement, and maintenance issues.
 - b. Competition with other programs for external clinical placements.
 - c. High costs associated with the clinic.
- Recommendations for all Degree Programs Under Review
 - I. Approving replacement for academic and clinical staff.
 - a. Develop strategies to increase the ability to recruit and retain staff.
 - 1. Decrease teaching load.
 - 2. Increase compensation.
 - b. As a University, solve issues on equipment replacement.
 - 1. There was an 18-month turnaround period for a piece of equipment that needed to be replaced.
 - c. Create stronger connections with undergraduate programs to increase student interest in the program.
 - II. Cripe mentioned there is only one full-time faculty in Audiology.
 - a. This is a faculty retention issue.

- b. There are many specializations offered.
 1. Faculty cannot cross-teach.
 2. Specializations are needed for accreditation purposes.
- III. Douglass asked if the program is able to get more external grants and if such grants can support the equipment issues.
 - a. Blazey stated that this is possible.
 - b. Strid mentioned the Audiology program attempted to use funds from differential tuition, but were not allowed to.
 - c. Mini mentioned there are two ways they can get funds.
 - d. Abdel-Motaleb mentioned the funds are still there, but have not been approved.
- IV. McEvoy asked if there were any representatives from the Dean's Office present at the subcommittee meeting.
 - a. The Chair, Sherrill Morris, and the Associate Dean, Beverly Henry, were present.

4. Other Business

- Emails regarding next week's subcommittee meetings have been sent.

Meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Crystal Doyle and Jessica Jaimes