COMMITTEE: Educational Policies and Planning Committee

MEETING DATE: November 9, 2012  Called to Order: 1:09 PM.  Quorum established.

PERSON PRESIDING: Ed Stellwag, Chair;

REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: John Kenney, DeeDee Glascoff, David Smith, Kanchan Das, Salman Abdulali, Jeff Popke, Susan M. Bashinski

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joseph Thomas, Tom McConnell, Anthony Overton

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Linner Griffin, Mark Sprague, Leigh Patterson

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Lori Lee

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Approval of minutes of September and October meetings

Discussion: Correction of two typographical errors

Action Taken: Motion to approve by Popke; seconded by Bashinski

  Approved unanimously.

Assigned additional duties to: N/A

Agenda Item: Academic Program Review – Computer Sciences Department

Discussion:

1. Did the unit response acknowledge each of the external reviewers’ recommendations?

   Yes, each recommendation was acknowledged / addressed, though the departmental response did not seem to be particularly proactive. Tone of the report seemed to be one of “resignation.”

2. Did the unit response address each of the recommendations in an action plan that is specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound?
Some question regarding whether or not a sufficient number of elements of the department's action plan were time-bound (particularly in regard to departmental leadership because the individual who, to date, has completed the majority of work to achieve accreditation will retire soon).

Other primary discussion, not directly related to the EPPC program review criteria:

Department has shown significant growth at the graduate level, with no concurrent growth in number of faculty.

Department has been under leadership of interim chairs (two different individuals) for some period of time. (In fact, of the 12 years of the department's existence, a permanent chair has led the department for only 4 of these years.) This reality is believed to be linked to the apparent lack of vision in the department. Nothing in the department's response indicated a pro-active stance of faculty members, in regard to approaching the Dean about hiring a permanent chair; the report did not address, specifically, what the department is doing to advocate for itself in this regard (although comments from one EPPC member indicated the Dean, himself, is aware of this need).

Another concern is the lack of external funding for the department overall. (One program, software engineering, has been strong in this area.)

**MOTION**: Send a letter to Academic Affairs, recommending the department provide an addendum to their response to the external reviewers’ report, outlining the department’s priorities in a three-year action plan.

**Action Taken**: Motion to by Glascoff; seconded by Kenny

**Abstentions**: Linner Griffin

Approved unanimously.

**Assigned additional duties to**: Stellwag to write and submit letter.

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**Agenda Item**: Discussion of the Need to Include Some Sort of Credit, in Faculty Workload, for Mentoring Graduate Students

**Discussion**: This item did not come to the EPPC from an external source, but was raised by members of the EPPC at a previous meeting.

Consensus of EPPC members was that workload guidelines need to be revised to include credit in the workload of the faculty member who is designated as chair of a student’s thesis or dissertation committee.

What is the purview of the EPPC? It is not to determine specifically how / to what magnitude work load credit be assigned; each department should decide the magnitude of credit for such work and how same will be determined.
MOTION: Make recommendation to the Faculty Senate Governance Committee that the committee address this issue, before the conclusion of the 2012 – 2013 academic year, and consider the question of workload credit for a faculty member who chairs a thesis or dissertation committee.

Action Taken: Motion to by Glascoff; seconded by Kenny

Abstentions: None

Approved unanimously.

Assigned additional duties to: Stellwag to write and submit recommendation.

Meeting Adjourned 1:53 PM.

NEXT MEETING: December 14, 2012*

*ECU Fall graduation ceremony is scheduled on this date. Possible alternative meeting dates will be sought.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED: None mentioned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan M. Bashinski