Academic Affairs Council Meeting  
Apr. 23, 2007  

Attending: Luecke, Ghandour, Bado-Fralick, Wong, Hendrich, Kruempel  

Minutes from Mar. 5, Mar 26 were unanimously approved with minor changes. Motion made by Wong and seconded by Ghandour.  

The annual report of the Academic Affairs council was unanimously approved with minor changes, motion was made by Ghandour and seconded by Bado-Fralick.  

Kruempel reported that Curriculum Committee is working on a form for approval of courses to meet US diversity and international perspectives requirements that will include a matrix of the five approved learning outcomes for each requirement. The Curriculum committee hopes to agree on the format of this form this spring.  

The report, College Learning for the New Global Century from the American Association of Colleges and Universities, was discussed. Accountability to the public may be driving having more standardization of student learning, but it is not clear what form this might take. The need for “cross-fertilization” between colleges to help students develop “essential learning outcomes” such as creativity and critical thinking might be in conflict with a college unit-centered budget model (colleges competing). Challenges or possible pitfalls in adopting an outcomes approach include “teaching to the test”, teaching large classes and difficulties in assessing learning of these outcomes in such a context. Respecting academic freedom while providing high quality education requires respect for diverse approaches, and cannot work well by imposing outcomes on educators. The extent to which the essential learning outcomes ought to be driven by students rather than faculty, or by new partnerships between faculty and students was another key issue. This discussion will continue during next year’s Academic Affairs Council.