Academic Priorities Council
Minutes of March 27, 2012

Attendees: Jim Rinderle, Margaret Allard, Savannah Van Leuvan-Smith, Lily Fitzgerald, Eliot Moss, Ernie May, Bryan Harvey, Elizabeth ChiltonKathy Debevec, Richard Bogartz (Chair)

1. The Minutes of the February 21, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved.

2. The Council reviewed a proposal for a Five College Ethnomusicology Certificate Program. Concerns were expressed about the current structure of the program. Students can satisfy the requirements while taking few musicology courses. Only two UMASS courses are included in the proposal. The focus appears to be more “World Music” than “Ethnomusicology.” The suggestion was offered to invite Dennis Brown, a representative from another campus to discuss the proposal with the Council. The APC opted to defer their vote on the proposal and communicate to Professor Brown the concern that there is insufficient ethnomusicology coverage in the proposal. The current requirements would enable an individual student to gain insufficient musicology coverage.

3. Professor Curtis Conner’s motion “That when a faculty member is granted a leave without pay (LWOP), the total salary must be returned to the Department in order to make possible the fulfillment of the absent faculty member’s teaching, advising and service responsibilities during the period of the leave, without overloading other faculty members in the department or program” was on the table for discussion. The Faculty Senate does not have the authority to do what Professor Conner moves. Rather, Professor Conner can offer a recommendation to the Senate. The Council voted to recommend alternative wording to Professor Conner: “When a faculty member is granted a leave without pay, a portion of the salary should be used to provide adequate replacement instruction, advising, and support for the good of the department.”

4. A proposal for an Undergraduate Certificate in Applied Economic Research on Cooperative Enterprises was evaluated. Dick Bogartz moved that the certificate require at least 15 credits of courses. The Council voted in favor of the proposal with this course requirement.

5. The Joint MS JD Labor Studies proposal and its background was discussed. Given University guidelines, the proposal should be considered a “Dual Degree” rather than a “Joint Degree.” Past feedback on the proposal suggested a revision that includes proper labeling of courses (including course numbers and credits), but a revision was never received. Given that Labor Studies has now been merged with Sociology, the Council
recommends finding out what Labor Studies’ intentions are concerning the proposal. A motion was made to table the Joint MS JD Labor Studies and Graduate Certificate Program in Labor Studies votes. Course numbers and an update of the proposal are needed. The proposal is dated November, 2010.

6. The proposals for an Undergraduate and Graduate Certificate in Transit Management and Operations were evaluated. The Council found it hard to distinguish between the two programs given the similarity in requirements.

The concern expressed for the Undergraduate Certificate is that a limited number of courses are included that would fulfill the requirements for the Certificate. Three of the eight courses (Accountg 221, Managmnt 260, and Managmnt 301) are required Isenberg School of Management courses and enrollment is very tight and controlled by Isenberg staff. It is not clear that students could easily secure enrollment in those courses.

A motion for provisional approval, in principle, was provided for the Undergraduate proposal given that the following changes are made:

- The classes that students need to take online or will need to get approval for should be footnoted.
- Courses that have limited availability and with enrollment outside their control should be footnoted
- Additional undergraduate courses should be added so that students do not have difficulty finding courses that will fulfill the requirements
- Required Internship hours need to be confirmed and consistent throughout the proposal.
- It should be noted that students need to plan ahead.

The program should be finalized in consultation with the Chair of the APC.

A motion for approval of the Graduate proposal was made and approved, with the provision that Internship hours should be consistently stated throughout the proposal.

7. The proposal for 4 + 1 B.S./M.S. program review was tabled until the next meeting.