Academic Priorities Council

Minutes: October 4, 2012


2. The Council discussed the Joint M.S./J.D. in Labor Studies and Law. A number of questions were raised:

   a. What are the courses, course numbers, and frequency of offering of the courses. It was noted that a number of the courses listed in the proposal do not seem to be in the catalog.
   b. Since the Labor Center is now in the Department of Sociology, does the department approve of this proposal. We need something in writing to this effect.
   c. How does tuition work? Does the student have to pay at both institutions when only studying at one of them?
   d. Does the existence of the UMass Law School change anything?
   e. Does this have to go to the Board of Higher Education?

3. Discussion of the Food Science Accelerated Master's proposal was deferred to the next meeting.

4. The Council discussed the Proposal for Joint Degree Program Master of Regional Planning (MRP) / Master of Public Policy and Administration (MPPA). The following concerns were raised:

   a. The proposal is not submitted on the appropriate form. It should be resubmitted on the form for such proposals.
   b. In Table 2 there are two courses which appear to not be being taught, 610 Planning History and Theory and 615 Planning Law. Also the course 640 Regional Planning Studio listed in Table 2 appears to be misnumbered.
   c. In Table 1 the course number 697 needs a letter after the number.
   d. It is not clear whether this is one joint degree or two dual degrees.
   e. Concerns raised in an email to the Council by a member who could not attend were: "My main question is this: if this will be one of only a handful of programs like this, so we know there is both a market for students and a set of jobs waiting for these students? I guess I am wanting to know more about the market research to indicate demand and relevance. I am also wanting to know about new resources needed (though I guess that may be another council reviewing that). This proposal doesn't seem to be on the typical Faculty Senate forms." So we need responses concerning the market and market research and whether any new resources will be needed. Use of the proper form should help with these.

5. The Council simultaneously discussed the two proposals Master in Business Administration (MBA) with a Focus in Marketing and Master in Business Administration (MBA) with a Focus in Entrepreneurship. A number of questions
a. Foremost was the question why are these proposals being made. What is the purpose or goal. The stated purpose was not informative as to what the point was.

b. How is the full-time MBA different from the MBA with a focus in marketing?

c. What is a focus. The word concentration is also used. Is this a focus or a concentration? The Council is aware of majors, minors, concentrations, and certificates, but not of foci.

d. How many credits are needed for a concentration. Do three courses constitute a concentration?