Academic Priorities Council  
Minutes of February 21, 2012

Attendees: Jim Rinderle, Scott Stangroom, Jerri Willett, Margaret Allard, Monroe Rabin, Yemini Jimch, Savannah Van Leuven-Smith, Lily Fitzgerald, Eliot Moss, Kathy Debevec, Richard Bogartz (Chair)

1. The Minutes of the January 17, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved.

2. The Master in Business Administration (MBA) with a Focus in Finance was unanimously approved. Some additional clarity in section 1A of the proposal on how the credit requirements for the proposed “Focus” compare with the credit requirements for the general MBA degree program would be helpful. This only becomes clear with the accompanying table. A question was also raised about whether the diploma and degree would include the descriptor “with a Focus in Finance.”

3. The proposal for a Minor in Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management was tabled pending additional clarity on the question raised by the Program and Budget Council regarding the funding model.

4. The proposal for a Management Certificate in Sustainable Business Practice was tabled until it is clear that approval for the electives listed was obtained from the various departments teaching the elective courses. Such approval is needed to ensure student access to the courses. The funding model was questioned by the Program and Budget Council and the APC seeks additional information on the appropriateness of the model.

5. The proposals for the Undergraduate and Graduate Certificates in Transit Management and Operation was tabled until further clarification is provided on the differences between the Undergraduate and Graduate Certificates and future funding. These concerns were also raised by the Program and Budget Council and the Academic Matters Council.

6. Two academic priorities were discussed as well: (1) the need for a course in ethics across the curriculum and (2) the situations that arise as a result of the incentive structure in place to increase revenues. There was a strong sentiment that ethical issues are present across disciplines and that this needs to be addressed possibly in conjunction with the General Education requirements at the undergraduate level, or perhaps as an online course. The incentive structure discussion was raised relative to a discussion of why full-time undergraduate students, who pay tuition, would be asked to pay tuition again when
taking courses only offered through CPE. Both issues were considered academic priorities deserving of further discussion.