Academic Priorities Council
Minutes
February 3, 2009

Present: Margaret Allard, Matteo Pangallo, Monroe Rabin, Carolyn Cave, Richard Bogartz, Bryan Harvey, Ernie May, Scott Stangroom, Jim Rinderle, Dara Wier, Kathy Debevec, Randall Knoper, Dayo Gore, Eliot Moss

1. The Chancellor’s restructuring proposal will need to be deliberated on by the Faculty Senate and the Faculty need to offer a recommendation. The Senate needs to engage in due diligence and set up a process to review the proposal. This evaluation process needs to occur for the APC before Spring break and we need to prepare a report for the Faculty Senate.

2. The budget cuts are resulting in vacancies in faculty positions and lecturer positions. They are likely to lead to staff vacancies and layoffs. Other areas that will likely be affected include the number of TA positions, admission of graduate students, athletics, academic support units, and campus construction projects. The proposed Stimulus Package may help offset the effects, but this will not be known for some time.

3. The Chancellor’s proposal is expected to result in administrative cost savings by eliminating three Deans’ positions and staff positions.

4. Some initial concerns were expressed about the reorganization proposal. SBS and HFA stand to lose resources in the proposed restructuring. It is not clear that the proposed restructuring is based on an academic vision and such a vision needs to be verbalized and provided in support of the recommendation.

5. Questions need to be asked in the evaluation process. Can all of the units continue to do what they need to do? Are the units optimally aligned? Does the proposal make sense? We need to go to the units involved and gain their perspective on the proposal from representatives who would include Deans, Dept. Heads/Chairs, and members of personnel committees. Their perspective on both the short-term impact on the campus climate and how the proposed restructuring would position the campus when we come out of the recession is needed. Given our role as the Academic Priorities Council, we should also assess the restructuring plan in terms of its impact on students.

6. Dick Bogartz suggested that Jane Fountain should be invited to the upcoming APC meeting to discuss the College of Arts and Sciences structure. It was suggested that meetings also be arranged with representatives from NRE, SBS, NSM, HFA, and Nursing. An open session for faculty was suggested. An email soliciting input from faculty was viewed as another means to obtain feedback. Weekly meetings were planned beginning on February 10th to meet with each of the colleges. Meetings will be scheduled for Feb. 10th, 17th, and 24th, and March 3rd and 10th.