Academic Priorities Council
Minutes of April 17, 2012

Attendees: Ernie May, Bryan Harvey, Scott Stangroom, Deb Picking, Yemini Jimch, Kathy Debevec, Denny Brown (guest), Becky Miller (guest from Hampshire College), Richard Bogartz (Chair)

1. The Minutes of the March 27, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved.

2. After a lengthy discussion of the Ethnomusicology Certificate proposal with Professors Denny Brown and Becky Miller the APC requested that a revised proposal be submitted which laid out a clearer representation of the principles and procedures governing how a student will select courses to satisfy the requirements for certification.

The issues raised in the discussion included:

- UMass students need to travel to fulfill the requirements of the Certificate. It is not clear how much a student can do at UMass to fulfill the requirements of the Certificate. Most of the courses are offered at the 5 colleges as a whole rather than at UMass. This makes it more difficult for UMass students to pursue this certificate. Offerings at UMass include 9 courses, some of which are related to ethnomusicology but not central to it.
- Many of the courses in the proposal are allied to ethnomusicology (and more like world music) but not central to ethnomusicology. Some of the courses have a peripheral connection to ethnomusicology, such as two courses from the Afro American department. Steve Tracy’s Blues course is not included and probably should be.
- Which of the courses in the proposal are taught regularly? Some haven’t been taught in a long time.
- The Certificate requires an application process and advising. Students would need to work closely with Denny in selecting courses for the Certificate. This differs from the typical process at UMass in which students receive a certificate if they take the necessary courses and reflects a clash of cultures. Students at UMass are not used to seeking advising to take courses or applying to fulfill a certificate. This is not the norm given the number of students at UMass.
- It may be possible to do a BDIC type proposal process but students would need to be aware of this upfront and the application procedures need to be spelled out.
- At UMass, if a certificate is awarded, we need to be able to articulate what is being certified. The requirements need to be defined and clear so that students can find their way through. A set of rules is needed so that students will know what courses to put together.
- The information on the website and in the proposal need to be the same.

2. (a) The APC approved the proposal to create the department of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture.
(b) The APC approved the designation of the department created in 2(a), “Stockbridge School of Agriculture” within the College of Natural Sciences.

(c) The APC approved the following changes in degree programs in the department to be known as the Stockbridge School of Agriculture

i. Retitling of the A.S. in Fruit & Vegetable Crops to A.S. in Sustainable Food and Farming
ii. Retitling the A.S. in Horticulture to A.S. in Sustainable Horticulture
iii. Retitling the B.S. in Plant, Soil & Insect Sciences (concentration in Turfgrass Science & Management) to the B.S. in Sustainable Food & Farming
iv. Retitling the B.S. in Plant, Soil & Insect Sciences (concentration in Turfgrass Science & Management) to the B.S. in Turfgrass Science and Management
v. Retitling the B.S. in Plant, Soil & Insect Sciences (concentration in Horticulture) to the B.S. in Sustainable Horticulture.

3. The APC decided to conduct an email vote on the apparently noncontroversial proposal for an Accelerated MS Degree in Food Science.