Minutes of the Academic Priorities Council
October 5, 2010

Present: Richard Bogartz, Jim Rinderle, Scott Stangroom, John Kingston, Jean DeMartinis, Margaret Allard, Monroe Rabin, Bryan Harvey, Sue Sturgeon, Jerri Willett, Kathy Debevec (Chair)

1. Kathy Debevec was re-elected as Chair of the Academic Priorities Council.

2. The Council discussed the status of the merger between SBS and HFA. John Kingston reported that an advisory committee consisting of ten department heads, five from SBS and five from HFA, has been appointed by the Provost to consider the feasibility of the merger and the parameters of a potential merger. A discussion and vote on the merger is expected to go before the Faculty Senate in the spring.

3. The Council reviewed a proposal from the Labor Studies Department for a Graduate Certificate in Labor Studies. The Council is seeking clarification and revision of the proposal several areas:

   a. In the Curriculum Overview section, additional clarity is needed for items “B” and “D” because they come across as inconsistent. List A and List B appear to apply to non-matriculated students, who are required to take 3 courses from List A and 2 courses from List B. It is not clear what matriculated students are required to take. Are they required to take courses from both lists, while taking up to 6 credits in a Department other than Labor Studies? Given that there is a reason for having two lists, this would be logical to require them to take courses from both lists, but this is not specified. Should “B” be a footnote to either List A or B?
   
   b. If students finish the Certificate Program and choose to come into the Graduate Program in Labor Studies, will credits transfer in or be waived? Would a time limit on transfer credits be applicable?
   
   c. If students are transferring credits from the Certificate Program to the Graduate Program, what courses may be transferred and where will the credits be counted in the Graduate Program? This needs to be made clear.
   
   d. Can the Labor Studies Department speculate future demand for the Certificate?

4. The Council reviewed two Dual Degree Program Proposals, (1) a Dual Degree Program for Master of Architecture/Master of Landscape Architecture, and (2) a Dual Degree Program for Master of Architecture/Master of Regional Planning. Clarification is needed in the following areas:

   a. Should the studio format, which is described in the Dual Degree Proposal with Regional Planning, also be included in the Dual Degree Program Proposal for Master of Architecture/Master of Landscape Architecture?
   
   b. Please provide a needs assessment for each new Dual Degree program and a demand estimate, if possible.
   
   c. In combining the two original degree programs into a Dual Degree Program, it is important to make clear which parts of the two original programs are being reduced and why. Justification for why courses and credits are not the same is needed. For example, in the original MLA and MArch programs, 17 thesis credits were required (8 in MLA and 9 in MArch), but in the new Dual Degree Program, only 11 thesis credits are required (5 in MLA and 6 in March). When creating Dual Degree Programs, usually the courses that overlap make up the credit difference.

   d. Please make sure that the total credits in the Existing MArch program add up.
   
   e. Clarification should be provided on which courses from each original program are also required in the Dual Degree Program and which course requirements have been modified. This could be done by adding another column to Table 1, while eliminating Table 2. Clarification is needed for what is comparable between MLA and MArch.

   f. Will students completing the Dual Degree Program be able to go through professional licensing for either/both program(s)? Clarify the licensing issue. Given the certification, can students have 11 thesis credits vs. 17 thesis credits? How will students do a thesis in each program? Please clarify.