Academic Planning Council Minutes
Wednesday, May 16, 2018
3609 Engineering Hall

Present: L. Albert, M. Allen, D. Anderson, J. Blanchard, E. Harris, B. Likos, D. Lynn, B. Murphy, G. Nellis, R. Radwin, I. Robertson
Absent: S. Babcock, B. McPherson, M. Romero, D. Thelen, J. Tinjum, J. Towles, C. Walters
Guest: L. DeBaillie

Announcements; Approval of April Minutes
Motion to approve April minutes passed unanimously

Proposed Named Option MS in ME for Research
No changes to the MS program; moving to a named option. Motion to recommend approval of the proposed named option: Masters in ME-research, passed unanimously.

Graduate Program Reviews

- Civil and Environmental Graduate Program
  Although the report indicated a decrease in the number of applications, there is no concern that the quality of applicants has decreased; still filling the number of available positions. Motion to recommend acceptance of the review passed unanimously.

- Manufacturing Systems Engineering
  Some concern was raised that the review does not contain enough information and may not highlight the program’s success. Motion to recommend acceptance of the review passed unanimously.

College of Engineering Awards
Proposal to revamp the College awards process was presented. The number of supporting letters was discussed; without additional letters, the department nomination letter becomes critical. It may also result in more, but less qualified nominations. Suggestion to request a maximum of two supporting letters to be included in the nomination materials. Nominees should hold at least a 50% appointment in CoE.

Other suggestions:
Standing committees would review the nominations (i.e. EIC review teaching award nominations); EDC already reviews the Equity and Diversity Award nominations.
Engage alumni/supporters such as IAB member to review nominations.
Add student(s) to the selection committee.
Add an early career research award (similar to Bird Award, but for those under 45 years of age).

Motion to recommend approval of proposal incorporating suggested changes passed unanimously.
Subcommittee Updates

- **Improving PhD Mentoring and Recruitment**
  To help recruitment efforts, it was suggested that standardized language, stating that funding would be guaranteed for 5 years, be added to offer letters. The department, not the college, would be responsible for funding. The departments’ 150 fund return could be used as back-up funding if other funding is not available.

  Need to improve perceptions of TAs.

- **Should we have more CoE specific courses (such as Chem, Physics, Math, Computer Science, etc.?)**
  APCRC suggested considering a CoE statistics class.
  The question of funding support for developing new courses was raised. Would the dollars follow the students in the courses? Difficult to develop the courses without additional funding. David Anderson to reach out to department chairs to gauge their interest.

  Ian remarked that the primary focus should be providing courses which best prepare the students. Is it an educational advantage/better preparation to offer engineering-focused courses? Discussion of the undergraduate curriculum and what it should look like is underway.

- **Intro Engr Requirement - what should the first year experience look like?**
  No updates; to be discussed in the fall.

- **Are the newly added degrees and increased enrollment at both the undergrad and graduate levels benefiting the students?**
  Topic to be researched over the summer.