

ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE (APC)
Minutes of Meeting

Date: Thursday, May 12, 2011

Time: 9:00am-11:00am

Room: 203 Toldo

Committee Members: Dr. Lorna deWitt, Dr. Amy Fitzgerald, Dr. Ed King, Dr. Katherine Quinsey, Dr. Cyril Rodrigues, Dr. Kara Smith, Dr. Bruce Tucker (acting chair), Mr. Stephen Willetts, Prof. Larry Wilson, Dr. Alan Wright.

Absent: Dr. Majid Ahmadi (regrets), Ms. Joan Dalton (regrets), Mr. Anthony Meloche (regrets), Dr. Victoria Paraschak (regrets), Dr. Jagdish Pathak (chair) (regrets), Dr. Diane Kao.

In Attendance: Ms. Sandra Aversa, Mr. Mark Charlton, Ms. Renée Wintermute and Ms. Alison Zilli (University Secretariat).

Formal Business

1 Approval of Agenda

Although the items were not discussed in a sequential manner, the minutes do reflect the agenda order of business.

MOTION: That the agenda be approved.

Wilson/Quinsey
CARRIED

2 Approval of Minutes

MOTION: That the minutes of the meeting of April 6, 2011 be approved.

Wilson/Wright
CARRIED

MOTION: That the minutes of the meeting of April 15, 2011 be approved.

Wilson/deWitt
CARRIED

3 Business arising from the minutes

Nothing to report.

4 Outstanding business

Nothing to report.

Items for Information

5 Reports/New Business

5.1 University Operating Budget (2011-2012)

(See document APC110512-5.1 for more details.)

It was NOTED that:

- A presentation was given of the major assumptions and priorities governing the 2010/11 Operating Budget.
- The proposed budget *Thinking Forward, Taking Action* is being presented to APC, en route to Senate, as part of the broad consultation undertaken to develop the final budget proposal for approval by the Board of Governors.
- Members were reminded that this is the 4th year of the budget realignment and that a balanced budget is being presented for 2011/12 which includes strategic investments totalling \$ 1.67m.
- The 2011/12 Operating revenue is \$219.4 million.
- The Strategic Priority Fund was introduced in 2009/10 to achieve priorities outlined in the University's strategic plan.

- The projected enrolment for Fall 2011 is set at 13,330 full-time students and 2,600 part-time students to a total of 16,000.
- Investments in the student experience include: Improvements to the campus, online learning initiative, curriculum enhancement, new academic programs, and recruitment and retention activities.
- Investments in research include: development of strategic research plan, institutional reputation, student engagement in research, development of regional cluster concept, investment to support commercialization.
- Operating shortfall resolved through realignments was \$2.0 million, the incremental pension contributions resolved through realignments was \$2.3 million and the total realignment for 2011/12 was \$4.3 million.
- The criteria and evaluation process as well as the full list of projects for the Strategic Priority Fund will soon be included on a website at www.uwindsor.ca/spf. It was noted that the status of the projects will be reported through accountability reports.

APC Comments

- APC understands and appreciates the constraints under which the University has been operating.
- APC was pleased to hear that the University has met its realignment targets for a balanced budget for 2011/12. This phased realignment strategy ensures the long term sustainability and quality of the University's programs and services. However, further realignment may be required following the July 1, 2011 valuation of the pension plans.
- APC agrees that student recruitment and retention is one of the most important areas of focus and investment for the University.
- APC notes that it is important for the University to continue to increase student recruitment efforts so that the University will reach the corridor floor (400 additional full time eligible students are needed) in order to receive growth monies in future fiscal years. Currently the University is below the corridor floor.
- It was noted that since international students comprise 10% of the student population and generate 25% of the tuition revenue, focusing on international student recruitment and retention, and the international student experience, is key. APC encourages the University to do more to enhance the international student experience. In response, it was noted that there are many new initiatives in place geared towards increasing international student recruitment and retention, and enhancing the international student experience, including improving the International Student Centre; and, creating an International Strategic Plan.
- APC recognizes that the Strategic Priority Fund (SPF) enables the University to make strides towards achieving its goals and priorities as set out in the Strategic Plan. Given this, it was noted that sufficient SPF monies should continue to be made available in the upcoming fiscal years. In response, it was noted that current figures show that SPF monies will likely be at \$2 million minimum for the 2012/2013 fiscal year.
- APC supports the new Centre for Engineering Innovation and the possibilities that it will generate in terms of innovation and student enrolment. APC raised some concern regarding the issue that the operating expenses for the new building may put some additional strain on the operating budget. In response, it was noted that the Faculty of Engineering has a recruitment plan in place for 400 additional students in order to offset some of operating costs.
- Overall, APC endorses the proposed 2011/12 Operating Budget, as presented to it on May 12, 2011.

Items for Approval

5.2 Thirteen Point Grading Scale

(See document APC110512-5.2 for more details.)

MOTION: That the Thirteen Point Grading Scale be changed to a 100% scale, effective Fall 2013 for all current and incoming students.

Wilson/Wright

It was NOTED that:

- Over the years there have been various concerns raised regarding the issue that the University of Windsor grading system is inconsistent with other Ontario and Canadian universities which may

disadvantage students when applying for professional studies, post-graduate studies, and when applying for scholarships/grants, etc.

- The proposal for changing from a 13pt grading scale to a 100% scale has been vetted by Student Committee, Associate Deans Council, Deans Council and the three student groups. In addition, various areas across campus (ITS, Registrar's Office, Awards, Centre for Career Education, Residence Services, Institutional Analysis) have been consulted and have provided suggestions and feedback regarding the proposal.
- Changing the grading scale will require systematic review of all policies and procedures affected by this change. The endeavour will be initially time-consuming but academically worthwhile in the long run.
- In response to the suggestion made that the document go forward to Senate first as a discussion item and then for approval, it was noted that given the projected timeline for implementation, the overwhelming support for the change by the various groups, and the general view that the 13 pt scale does not "make sense", members agreed that the document should just go directly to Senate for approval.
- Instructors would essentially be given percentage number grades. The Grade Conversion Scale (among many other policies) would need to be revisited, pending approval of this proposal. Currently the Policy on Grade Conversion indicates that an A+ is a 93%-100%, and this may need to be reviewed with a view to making it more in line with other universities.
- There was overwhelming support for changing the grading scale to 100%. It was felt that this change would be more consistent with other universities, allow greater flexibility for professors in their marking, reduce student complaints and be more transparent for students, parents, faculty, employers, etc.
- Although an initial review has demonstrated that the 100% scale benefits students, should there be circumstances where a current student who was formerly under the 13 pt scale is disadvantaged by this change, exceptions may be made by the appropriate Dean to rectify the situation.

CARRIED

5.3 International Foundation Year

(See document APC110512-5.3 for more details.)

MOTION: That applicants who have completed the International Foundation Year (University Preparation Program) by Lambton College with a minimum cumulative average of B (3.0) be eligible for admission to First Year of an appropriate program.

Quinsey/King

It was NOTED that:

- The International Foundation Year, which is offered through Lambton College is a preparatory program that prepares international students who have successfully completed secondary education with English proficiency skills, for study at the undergraduate university level.
- Applicants who have completed the International Foundation Year (University Preparation Program) by Lambton College with a minimum cumulative average of B (3.0) will be considered for admission to First Year of an appropriate program. Applicants will still be required to take TOEFL.
- In response to a question raised regarding requiring students to have a minimum cumulative average of a 3.0, it was noted that this is because a 2.7 at some of the colleges is often a 67%.

CARRIED

Additional Business

6 Question period/Other Business

Nothing to report.

7 Adjournment

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.

Quinsey/deWitt
CARRIED