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Joint Committee on Academic Planning
December 12, 2017
MINUTES

Members Present: Marilyn Barbour, Laura Beauvais, Donald DeHayes, Nancy Eaton, Mayrai Gindy, Oleg Kazakov, Hillary Leonard, Leslie Mahler, Michael Rice, Naomi Thompson, Travis Williams, Nasser Zawia

Members Absent: Ryan Buck, Dan Graney, Ann Morrissey

Guests: Dr. Anthony Rolle, Dean, CEPS; Dr. Doug Hales, Dr. Nancy Forster-Holt, Dr. Betsy Cooper (all College of Business Administration)

Provost DeHayes called the meeting to order at 10:30am

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the meeting held 11/9/17 were approved.

NEASC Report Response

Provost DeHayes told the committee that Vice Provost Matt Bodah is working on our response to the NEASC report. The report is very positive overall, and the items called out are mostly small issues.

Pre-Proposals for New Program Offerings

Dr. Anthony Rolle, Dean of the Alan Shawn Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies prefaced the program discussion by saying that we are essentially building a brand-new college, almost like a start-up situation – we are looking at the current offerings to build success, looking at the strategic plan and the mission - all are under review. We need a space for students who are interested in education but not necessarily as teachers. We need to make our professional development program more robust. We will require more faculty to meet the need.

Proposed Program – Bachelor of Science in Organizational Development

Dean Rolle explained that this degree is focused on management of non-profit organizations. After extensive discussion, the JCAP committee members had reservations about the proposal as written, but recommend that the proposed program move forward (5 move forward, 5 reconsider) with careful attention to the following concerns:

- Consider including “non-profit” in the program title.
- Coordinate with and obtain letters of support from the other colleges, to ensure there is no overlap of the same student pool.
- Rollout the new programs in a sequential pattern, rather than trying to implement them all at once – stage in alignment with budget availability.
- Do additional analysis of the market, to be sure that non-profit management is a niche for adult learners that we are not already addressing.
- Secure resources to offer required General Education courses on the Providence campus before making the commitment to offer this program.

Proposed Program – Executive MS in Organizational Analysis and Implementation

Dean Rolle explained that “executive” in the title indicates that this is an executive-style program, one year, multiple forms of delivery, including Saturday sessions with industry guests. After discussion, the JCAP committee members had serious reservations about the proposal as written, and a majority of the committee voted that the program not move forward (2 move forward, 8 reconsider) but instead be reconsidered. Some of the concerns are:

- Use of the word “executive” may be confusing.
- The combination of students experienced in the workforce and more entry-level students may be a difficult combination.

Proposed Program - Master of Science in Digital Learning Systems

Dean Rolle explained that the program is proposed to teach students to use technology to enhance the strength of non-profit organizations. After discussion, the JCAP committee members voted that the program move forward (10 move forward, 1 reconsider) Recommendations to consider:

- Coordinate with existing programs.
- Align development with currently available resources.
- Consider targeting students who may be interested in going into the employee training and development area of human resources in corporations as an additional market for this degree.

Proposed Program - Bachelor of Science in Management, Innovation, Intrapreneurship and Entrepreneurship and Undergraduate Certificate in Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Dr. Doug Hales, Dr. Nancy Forster-Holt and Dr. Betsy Cooper, all from the College of Business Administration, appeared in support. They explained that the BS program is growing from a minor offering into a major. (They noted that the word “Intrapreneurship” is being dropped from the title.) The certificate offering includes the entrepreneurship courses only, and the BS contains those courses plus the business core courses. After discussion the committee unanimously recommended that the programs move forward, with these recommendations:

- Be sure the enrollment process for the certificate program is easy.
- Look at the potential of the adult market.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:45p.m.

Next meeting will be Thursday, February 8, 2018 – 3:00 – 4:30pm.