Academic Standards Committee Minutes 5/4/04

Members Present:

Deans: Rick Roth, Anne Pautz

Registrar: Susan Petrosino

Admissions: Myrna Garcia-Bowen

Arts and Sciences Faculty: Chris Doyle, Susan Gilmore, David Smith, Charles Waiveris

School of Business Faculty: Gene Baten, Kathy Czyrnik

Education and Professional Studies Faculty: Mary Pat Hager

Technology Faculty: Paul Resetarits

Guests: Susan Pease, Matt Warshauer

Members Absent:

Deans, School of Technology and School of Business; Jane Higgins, Student Affairs; Robert Dunne, English; Peter Osei, Biology; Barry Westcott, Chemistry

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m.

MOVED: To approve the minutes for the meeting of 4/13/04.

Rick Roth/David Smith. In Favor: All.

NEW BUSINESS:
1. **ELECTIONS:** Moved to accept the slate provided by the Nominations sub-committee via Mary Pat Hager for next year’s officers:

   Chairperson: Matt Warshauer, History

   Vice-Chairperson: Susan Gilmore, English

   Secretary: Chris Doyle, English

   Cathy Czynik/Matt Warshauer. In Favor: All

2. **Criminology Proposal #1:**

   The Criminology and Criminal Justice Department wishes to implement a policy that requires students to receive a grade of “C-“ or better in any pre-requisite (CRM 110, CRM 133, CRM 222, and CRM 337) before being allowed to enroll in the next course in the major.

   Move to accept: Smith/Waiveris.

   Discussion: The rationale provided by the Criminology department (submitted by Stephen Cox, elaborated on at the meeting by Susan Pease) is that students who are unable to master the concepts of a pre-requisite will have a low likelihood of performing well in upper level courses. Dean Roth offered that a new script currently being worked on for the Banner program may be able to identify students who have not met the pre-requisites and prevent them from enrolling in the next courses.

   Vote: Approved unanimously.

3. **Criminology Proposal #2:** “The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice would like to implement an
academic standards policy that removes and Criminology major from the program whose overall grade point average falls below 2.00.”

The rationale provided by the department indicated that the large number of Criminology majors is putting a large strain on the department (currently there is a 58/1 ratio of majors to full-time faculty), and that 62 of the current majors (13%) have GPA’s below 2.00. The department proposed a process whereby students who fall below the required GPA would be switched from being designated as Criminology majors to being designated as Undeclared. They would be eligible to re-apply to be Criminology majors once they had attained the required GPA.

Moved for discussion: Resetarits/Doyle

While agreeing in principle with the rationale for the proposal, members of the committee felt that the suggested process could be confusing and that there might be programs in place in the university that would provide clearer and/or simpler models for dealing with the problem. Particularly, the Pre-Communication and Pre-Social Work areas could be looked at, as both require minimum overall GPA’s as well as minimum GPA’s in the major, for acceptance into the full programs. The Professional Program in Education could also be looked at, although there are a number of requirements there in addition to the GPA, so it might not be as useful. Also, the committee was concerned that there should be some discussion with the Advising Center regarding its capacity to deal with increased numbers of “Pre-Criminology” majors.

It was also noted that, if the department decides to implement the idea of a “Pre-Criminology” major, it might
want to specify how long a person could be “Pre-Criminology.” This suggestion was made because of recent problems with some Pre-Communication students who were in the position of remaining “Pre” up to the time of graduation and not having an eligible graduation major.

The Committee also suggested that the department might consider whether it wants to remove CRM 110 and CRM 133 from the General Education program, in conjunction with this proposal or in addition to it, as a means of freeing up some resources.

Moved: To refer the proposal back to the department, with the Academic Standards Committee’s concerns and comments.

Smith/Waiveris. Approve: All.

4. The committee briefly discussed the meeting schedule for the next academic year. There was consensus that meetings should be kept on Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m. The first meeting of the fall will be on September 7, 2004, at 2:30 p.m.

Moved to adjourn at 3:15 p.m. Doyle/Resetarits. Approve: All.
Respectfully submitted,

Christine Doyle