Steering committee minutes October 23, 2009 12: -2:30pm (Dean’s Conf Room)

Members Present: Baker, Plice, Shore, Doran, DeNoble
Present ex-officio: Lackritz, Naughton

Excused Absence: Singh

Bruce Reinig, Chair of the IDS Department, attended the meeting. First, Bruce discussed the IDS proposal for a Master of Science Degree in Information Systems (MSIS). He discussed the widespread demand for the degree in industry as well as the growth of similar programs nationwide (approximately 50 to 200 from 2000 to 2006). Since there are no apparent resource implications created by the advent of the program (no new classes or sections), the SC unanimously approved the proposal. Next, Bruce engaged in a detailed explanation of the process leading to a proposed change in the name of his department from Information Decision Systems (IDS) to Management Information Systems (MIS). IDS engaged in a process beginning in December 2008 and ending in September 2009 to study the name change. In a vote of 9 to 5, the department approved the name change on September 25, 2009. It is important to recognize that the vote was not unanimous and that members of the department forwarded opposing viewpoints for the SC to consider. A lengthy discussion ensued which focused on the pervasiveness of the name in the discipline, the potential impact of the name on the substance of curriculum in the department and potential confusion created with the management department. After this discussion, Alex DeNoble tabled the topic until the management department could provide feedback regarding their potential concerns.

The minutes of the October 9th meeting were approved with slight modifications. At this time, Dean Naughton reported to the committee that the plan to move the Asian programs to Executive and Specialized Programs would not be implemented. ESP declined to accept responsibility for these programs because of their current heavy workload and lack of staffing. In addition to its handling of EMBA, Sports Management and GEMBA, they have recently been given responsibility for Graduate Career Services.

The Dean reported to the committee that the Faculty Incentive Program could not go forward in its current form. The Chair distributed correspondence from Bonnie Zimmerman and Bill Candela that emphasized that the plan could not move forward without union approval and would not meet union approval in its current form. The SC was also informed that the union was in the processing of suing the CBA over the plan. This news came as a surprise given that the SC had directed the Dean’s office to clear the plan with the administration and the union prior to releasing it to the faculty. The Dean explained that the plan had been forwarded to the President’s office. Further, the administration worked with the Dean to craft a message to be sent to the entire CBA faculty informing them that the process of distributing funds must be delayed until a plan acceptable to the CFA is developed. The administration gave the Dean no leeway in the construction of the message. The SC did not see the content of this message.
Curriculum change in the face of potentially crippling budget cuts was discussed. Per negative feedback from some faculty and chairs, the idea of a faculty retreat was abandoned. Approaches to preparing for a worst-case contingency were discussed as well as longer term solutions to streamlining the curriculum in what may become a smaller CBA with fewer human and capital resources. This discussion will continue and is likely to include a request to chairs to develop a Fall 2010 worst-case scenario schedule that includes no lecturers or FERPS. One purpose of producing this schedule will be to show the university administration the consequences of potential cuts to next year’s budget.