Summer School Committee

 Meeting Minutes-April 24, 2012

3:00 PM Algonquin Room, Student Union

Members Present: Brian Powell (Chair), Renee Polubinsky, Saisudha Mallur, Ellen Ehrgott, Kandice Hammer

Members Absent: Dean Halverson, Richard LaFlamm, Denise Gravitt, Graduate Council Representative (unfilled)

Visitor: Dr. Ken Hawkinson, Provost

Meeting purpose was to collect information from the University Provost. Dr. Hawkinson initiated conversation with history of summer school and recent changes. In his previous position as Associate Provost, Dr. Hawkinson was in charge of Summer School organization. Our current financial model of summer school is that the profits from summer school go back to the departments. Payment for faculty is a full month’s salary for a 3-ace course. With the current system, it is purported that more faculty have opportunities to teach than in most other models. Departments of Education and Business have more classes offered in the summer than any other departments. Course offerings are directed by the Chairs of the Department who are encouraged to offer courses that will “make”. Typically this means that there has to be an enrollment of ten students for undergraduate courses and five for graduate courses.

The attempt of the university is to offer a variety of courses across the general education curriculum; however, the courses have to be spread throughout the day because the courses cannot all be offered at the prime times between 10am and 2pm and students can take several courses in a day. On-line courses are less expensive to offer. Many of these coursed include computer science courses, public speaking, and BGS (?)/ IC (IC) courses. The Quad Cities campus has presented a large number of on-line courses and has established their own “distance learning designation.” A student taking more than 12 hours on the QC campus is then considered a “QC student.”

Dr. Hawkinson offered other information that affect summer school. It is encouraged to offer courses that are cross referenced in the catalogue and can cover two purposes when students enroll in those. Many sports teams are requiring student athletes to take summer classes and be available for training during the summer. Some departments, such as Physics who cannot offer summer courses because of the labs involved, are offering summer camps to area high school students. The MBA program is a big money maker for the university. Other information that may be helpful in planning is that 60% of the students who attend WIU receive the Pell Grant. Course offerings must be determined by late fall in order to be available for registration in early spring semester.

In response to questions, Dr. Hawkinson agreed that we might consider suggesting a “dummy” course where students could sign up knowing that there is a possibility to cancel if the enrollment is not satisfactory. This might be helpful for additional sections when there is no prediction for enrollment. It is not encouraged by the Provost to offer courses and then cancel them due to faculty and students depending on the provision of the course.

The next meeting of the Summer School Committee will be Friday, May 5, 2012 in Horrabin. The room number will be announced later.