DEAN’S RESPONSE

Planning and Review Committee

Program: B.S. Information and Communication Technologies
College: College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
Year: 2011-2012

Recommendations for the Program Director, Department Chair, and Dean:

Issue/Concern:

Work with faculty and Program Director to expand course offerings in emerging areas of networking and network security.

Response from Program Director and Department Chair:

Program Director’s and Department Chair’s Response: The department has been adding one new online course in networking and security every year. ITM 383 - Introduction to Network Security was offered for the first time in the spring of 2012.

Issue/Concern:

Work with faculty to provide/recommend professional development workshops for greater consistency in feedback and delivery of material across online courses.

Response from Program Director and Department Chair:

Program Director’s and Department Chair’s Response: The faculty of the ACT Department have attended and taught many of the Professional Development workshops on campus. New technology was been implemented to enhance on-line networking courses. Overall the student evaluation of the on-line courses delivered by the ACT Department faculty have been consistent with or above on-campus courses and students the student evaluations indicate most students are very satisfied with the courses. It should be noted that students in the program take courses from several departments.

Issue/Concern:

Work with faculty and Program Director to consider how the split in customized instruction [CI] and face-to-face courses will impact the delivery of both types of courses.

Response from Program Director and Department Chair:
Program Director’s and Department Chair’s Response: The existing model is very difficult to work with from a department perspective, and as long as this model is used and Outreach Services is involved it will restrict course offerings.

**Issue/Concern:**

Develop policies that will foster comparable access to courses and lab facilities for both online and customized instruction students.

**Response from Program Director and Department Chair:**

Program Director’s and Department Chair’s Response: The labs for on-line students are identical to those that on-campus students receive. The instructors teaching on-line lab courses are attempting to do a better job of explaining this to students. Communicating with students that are not in day to day personal contact with instructors is more difficult, and all involved are working to improve the environment for on-line students.

**Issue/Concern:**

Work with college Dean to address issues of pay differential with outside industry.

**Response from Program Director, Department Chair, and Dean:**

Program Director’s and Department Chair’s Response: Salary has been an ongoing issue for this and many other programs. Not only are salaries below industry salaries, but they are also below CUPA averages. In the current budget situations it appears additional funds are hard to come by.

Dean’s Response: Without a significant change in state government and public perception of the need for competitive salaries in higher education, this will continue to be an issue of concern, with no real solution options, in all academic units.

**Issue/Concern:**

Work with college Dean to address the need for additional faculty lines.

**Response from Program Director, Department Chair, and Dean:**

Program Director’s and Department Chair’s Response: The department chair has worked with the Dean and STEM budget officer since the conception of the College for extra FTE to no avail. As with salary dollars, the University’s FTE allocation appears to be inadequate to serve the increased number of students. The Department did use CI dollars to fund two lecturer positions.

Dean’s Response: There have been additional positions added with CI funds, and a plan exists to add an additional CI funded positions based upon enrollment growth.
In response to the Department Chair’s comments, the budget officer is advisory to the college and does not provide decisions on FTE allocations. If there is demonstrable need for FTE due to enrollment growth, then funds have been available to support these, either through college reserve or university enrollment growth funds. The Apparel & Communication Technologies Department has not presented data supporting such need.