

Recommendation to Restructure the Departments of History of Science and of History

As the oldest independent History of Science program in the country, the UW-Madison History of Science Department has built an international reputation for undergraduate and graduate training excellence in the humanistic and interpretive social scientific analysis of science, technology, and medicine. The department's cross-college structure (currently comprising 6 faculty and 1 senior lecturer in L&S, and 6 faculty in the School of Medicine & Public Health) has contributed to its reputation as a program with unique strengths in both history of science and history of medicine, but this structure also presents substantial governance challenges. Conversations between the Departments of History of Science and History have led to agreement on a merger. The two departments anticipate that this restructuring will provide faculty in both History and History of Science with a sustainable institutional structure for UW-Madison's leadership in humanistic and interpretive social scientific approaches to the study of STEM, and for advancing shared teaching and research interests in this area. History will also gain colleagues who will contribute to its many current strengths as a top-ranked department, especially in transnational, environmental, and intellectual history. The combined strengths of the departments will significantly bolster History's intellectual profile, while at the same time taking advantage of the upward trend in student enrollments in STEM-related courses on campus. Altogether, the combination promises to enhance UW-Madison's position as a world leader in the humanities as well as the life sciences, physical sciences, and engineering. The name of the new department will be the Department of History. The new unit will build on the core mission and many current strengths of the Department of History by adding a broad portfolio of undergraduate and graduate teaching in History of Science, Medicine, and Technology (HSTM).

History will extend a wholesale invitation to all Letters & Science faculty members in History of Science, who will have all of the rights, privileges, and obligations of faculty members set forth in the Department of History's Legislative Code. In addition, current Senior Lecturer and Honorary Fellow appointments in History of Science will carry over to the History Department. History will also extend a wholesale invitation for affiliate status to all current History of Science faculty housed in the Department of Medical History & Bioethics.

History currently has eight full-time staff members. History of Science's department manager retired in 2015, so there will be no administrative staff moving to History from that unit. Altogether, the combined units will have lost four staff members in the last three years. With the addition of six new tenure-track/tenured faculty members from History of Science, the History Department anticipates requesting three new administrative positions.

For budgetary purposes, the merger of History and History of Science will be effective on July 1, 2017; however, some changes (for example, to staff positions) may need to be made in anticipation of that date, to address Department of History's current (and ongoing) staffing needs. In order to facilitate the full integration of History of Science faculty into the social and intellectual life of the History Department, all L&S History of Science faculty will move to new offices on the fourth and fifth floors of the Mosse Humanities Building. Initial discussion of space needs, readiness, and relocation processes has already begun with the Associate Dean and with the Assistant Dean for Facilities. A timeline for the relocation is under development.

Both units expect that L&S and Graduate School budgetary allocations for the Department of History of Science will follow to History. These include Short Term Staffing allocations, TA allocations, supplies, etc. All endowed graduate fellowships and other sources of funding brought from the Department of History of Science will remain with the HSTM group as they migrate to History.

The Department of History has a robust Legislative Code that will guide the governance procedures for new faculty from History of Science. History of Science faculty have read History's Legislative Code and

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embrace its governing principles. The current Legislative Code will require minor amendments to reflect new faculty composition. All current L&S junior faculty from History of Science should follow the Department's Legislative Code, as well as the "Guide to the Criteria and Processes Involving Tenure in the History Department." Current mentors for all L&S probationary faculty in History of Science will follow to History. These mentors will consult with History's Assistant Professor Review committee throughout the probationary process. When the tenure committee is convened, the mentor will chair the committee, along with two other members of the History Department. At least one member of the three-person tenure committee must come from History faculty not currently affiliated with the Department of History of Science.

A pathway to governance status for current tenure-stream History of Science faculty housed in the Department of Medical History and Bioethics in SMPH into the governance of the History department is under development. Future tenure-stream Medical History faculty hired in MHB who seek joint governance in the History department will be able to follow a similar pathway. Absent such a pathway, current senior faculty in MHB who gain affiliate status with the Department of History will have the right to fully participate in the History Department's mentoring, evaluation, review, and votes on renewal, tenure, and promotion for current L&S History of Science probationary faculty. Effective fall 2017, all History of Science faculty will be eligible to serve on History Department committees in accordance with rank. Eligibility in fall 2017 means that eligible History of Science faculty will appear on History's Council ballots in spring 2017, and the chair will be free to call upon History of Science faculty to serve on other ad hoc committees.

All History of Science degrees and majors and the History of Science subject listing will migrate to the combined department, which will be responsible for maintaining the schedule of courses for this listing and for overseeing the course array. The HSTM faculty will form a study program that will operate like the History Department's existing study programs in determining course and language requirements specific to the M.A. in History of Science, Medicine, and Technology; the Ph.D. Minor in History of Science, Medicine, and Technology; and the Ph.D. degree in History of Science, Medicine, and Technology.

This proposal was developed in consultation with colleagues at regular departmental meetings, and with History of Science graduate students in a dedicated meeting on February 26, 2016. Updates on the plan were shared with History's Executive Committee at its meeting on February 15, 2016, and with History's Faculty Council, the directors of undergraduate and graduate studies, and the incoming chair on March 1, 2016. The final version was discussed on April 5, 2016, at a dedicated History of Science departmental meeting, and was approved by the History of Science department as a whole (9 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention) and its Executive Committee (5-0-0, with 5 members out of 8 present and voting). Similarly, the final version was approved by the Department of History (34-0-0) at its meeting on April 11, 2016.

On April 19, 2016, the L&S Academic Planning Council considered the plan to restructure the Departments of History of Science and of History, by merging the two departments. History of Science has been discussing questions related to its structure since Spring 2014. After considerable deliberation within the department and with colleagues in History, the two departments requested and received formal permission to plan to restructure in January 2016. When the APC met with the chairs, the council was pleased to learn of the exciting synergies made possible by this change. Not only will the change support the continued excellence of the academic programs, but the sustainable structure proposed supports UW-Madison's leadership in humanistic and interpretive social science approaches to the study of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). The L&S APC approved this request unanimously.

The proposal was subsequently approved by the University Academic Planning Council on September 15, 2016. This action is effective July 1, 2017.