

College of Letters and Science Academic Planning Council Annual Report to L&S Faculty Senate September 2013 through September 2014

The L&S Academic Planning Council advises the dean on strategic planning, as well as on programmatic matters (program review, expansion, alteration, and deletion) and fiscal matters. The council's operating procedures appear online in the L&S Administrative Gateway, at <https://kb.wisc.edu/images/group86/19956/APCGovernanceRules-2012rev.pdf> ; a list of members and observers appears at the end of this report.

Department Restructuring

The APC continued to provide counsel to the L&S leadership team about the changing shape of the college, as a number of small departments grappled with the implications small faculty size can have on effective governance and departmental operations. A number of units across the collage engaged in discussions about merger, collaboration, and other mechanisms for sharing resources and responsibilities. In 2013-2014, some of these discussions culminated in formal governance action, consistent with campus and college policy on restructuring (based on Faculty Policies and Procedures 5.02).

Hebrew & Semitic Studies, Classics, Center for Jewish Studies. The APC spent significant time deliberating about and providing advice concerning the closure of the Department of Hebrew & Semitic Studies. A comprehensive review of Hebrew & Semitic Studies conducted in 2012-13 led to the conclusion that the department did not have sufficient faculty to continue to operate as an independent department; the faculty review committee recommended that the department consider merger with other units. This led to a proposal intended to secure both continued instruction in Modern Hebrew and in the study of ancient biblical texts. Arising from these discussions, the APC considered and approved:

- A request to plan departmental restructuring (9/17/2013) *Note: per FP&P, all departmental restructuring activities begin with a formal request, followed by a 6-month planning period that involves, faculty, staff, and administrators to ensure that the revisions address all necessary questions.*
- Request to Close Undergraduate Major: Hebrew (2/4/2014). *Note: This corresponded with a change approved by the L&S Curriculum Committee, to create 'track' in the Jewish Studies undergraduate major to facilitate study of modern Hebrew major, in alignment with the HSS "Modern Hebrew" program. This change will allow current and future students to continue the study of modern Hebrew language and culture.*
- Request to close Hebrew & Semitic Studies department (5/6/2014), transferring faculty and staff, as well as elements of the academic programs, to the Center for Jewish Studies and to the Department of Classics.

- Request to change department name of Classics to “Classical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies,” to reflect the inclusion of new colleagues and new instructional opportunities.
- Request to reconfigure subject listings for courses in these programs, to create a “Hebrew-Biblical” subject listing (administered by Classical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies) and a “Hebrew – Modern” subject listing (administered by The Center of Jewish Studies). The “Hebrew” subject listing was also deleted.
Note: Following these changes, the L&S Curriculum Committee approved a series of course proposals that reallocated the “Hebrew” courses to these new subject listings.

Theatre & Drama. The APC reviewed and approved a request by the Department of Theatre & Drama to restructure on 5/6/2014. Faculty in the department proposed division into two disciplines, reflecting graduate research in Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies, and undergraduate and master’s level study of the fine and performing theatre arts. Faculty supporting the undergraduate and MFA programs requested permission to move the department to the School of Education, while faculty responsible for the MA and PhD will remain in L&S; the APC has approved a request to rename the MA and PhD in “Theatre & Drama” to “Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies”, and a plan to have those programs overseen by a program committee with administrative support provided through the Department of English. The L&S APC approved the proposal in May, and reaffirmed the plan (following full approval by English and greater elaboration on program details) in October 2014. The transfer of the Department of Theatre & Drama to the School of Education was reported to the Faculty Senate in October 2014, and will be effective July 1, 2015. At the time of this report, the plan for transfer of programs has been submitted to the Provost (November 1, 2014). That plan includes details concerning creation of new baccalaureate programming in the School of Education, “teaching out” and eventually closing the L&S BA/BS program in Theatre & Drama, relocating the MFA-Theatre and Drama (without substantial change) to the School of Education, and creating a new graduate program committee and administrative home for the MA and PhD in Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies.

Language and Cultures of Asia. APC members reviewed and approved a request to suspend admissions to LCA programs (BA/BS, MA, PhD) on 5/6/2014. The department had determined that the sudden loss of faculty from the department rendered it too small to sustain continued admissions; immediate suspension of admissions was needed to allow a period for reconsideration of the structure of LCA academic programs. At the same time, discussions across several units began to examine the relationships between all programs that focus on Asian language and cultures. The request to suspend admissions effective Fall 2014 was approved, and the University APC has requested that action is taken to discontinue or reopen the program by December 1, 2015. Subsequent to these approvals, the APC has approved a request for permission to plan to restructure the department (11/4/2014).

Integrated Liberal Studies. ILS was asked to undertake a self-study to identify how best to keep the program robust and relevant. In response, the program submitted a

request to restructure, intended to address several issues. Rather than approve the request to restructure, the APC charged the dean to convene a task force to serve as review committee and make recommendations. That committee's recommendations will be considered in Fall 2014.

Workplace Climate in L&S

The L&S Climate Committee conducted a report on workplace climate in L&S, and submitted the report to the L&S APC. Conclusions of the report included two recommendations: (1) L&S should state principles to foster a good working and learning environment, and (2) L&S should articulate steps an employee should take if they are experiencing a negative work environments. The APC accepted the report and endorsed the recommendations. [Principles of Community for the College of Letters and Science](#) are now posted in the L&S Administrative Gateway; the page also articulates advice and a path for employees to follow if they are experiencing a difficult work environment.

Requests to Create or Discontinue Programs

The APC reviewed and discussed the following proposals to create new programs:

- Undergraduate Biology Major: Plant Sciences Option (*Approved*)
- Joint PhD in Economics and Business (*Approved*)
- MS – Statistics: “Data Science” Option (*Approved*)
- Undergraduate Certificate in French (*Approved*)

In addition to these new options and certificates, the APC *approved* a Notice of Intent to Plan a New Undergraduate Major in Neurobiology, which is currently available as an Option under the undergraduate Biology Major. The council anticipates reviewing a full proposal early in the Spring 2015 term.

The APC *approved* a new “Educational Innovation”, in the form of a new “cohort model” Visiting International Student Program (VISP) in Statistics. (“Cohort model” VISP students attend UW-Madison as undergraduates engaged in U.S. study-abroad programs. These programs are coordinated by the Division of Continuing Studies.)

The APC also considered a number of program closures or requests to suspend admissions from a program, outside of the requests accompanying restructuring. Many of these were ‘housekeeping’ actions concerning programs where no students had been enrolled in the program for some time. Approved program closures included:

- Discontinued: Communications Arts – MFA *This degree has not been issued in decades, and the department has no plans to offer it in the future.*

- Reconfigured: Graduate program minor: Geophysics *These changes parallel changes made when graduate Geoscience majors were merged a few years ago, consolidating the programs and aligning them with the department name.*
- Discontinued: Undergraduate major, Medical Sciences. *The SMPH program that accompanied this was discontinued some time ago, and as a result, students may no longer enroll in this L&S major.*
- Discontinued: Endocrine and Reproductive Physiology, as an L&S PhD option *No L&S faculty actively mentor students in this doctoral program, which will still be available through CALS and SMPH. If L&S faculty wish to offer the program through L&S, that option is available as a special committee degree.*
- Discontinued: Undergraduate Certificate in Global Cultures *After a program review, International Studies decided to close the certificate given pressures of administering the certificate and concerns about the pedagogical cohesiveness. A teach-out plan is in place, and students may no longer enroll in the certificate*
- Admissions Suspended: International Studies Major, Global Commons/Global Environment Option. *Students will not be able to enroll in this option of the International Studies major, given overlap concerns with the Environmental Studies major.*

Other program-related proposals/ issues considered and approved by the L&S APC included:

- Proposal to consider Biology Core (“Biocore”) as a “Honors” program.
- Implementing changes to the administrative structure of the Biology major

Consultations of the Dean

The APC advises the dean on campus policies, changes, restructuring, or other academic issues. This year the APC considered proposals regarding

- Creation of the Reconfigured Wisconsin Arts Institute
- Restructuring of the Division of International Studies
- Restructuring of the Graduate School
- New Graduate School policies

At the L&S level, APC extensively discussed and provided advice to the Dean regarding:

- Transparency in the budget/resource allocation process, and using data to inform decisions that align with L&S mission and values
- Consideration of policy regarding the creation of new revenue-generating programs, and what should be included in new proposals.
- The role of certificate programs in the curriculum, with an emphasis on articulating clear purposes and reducing administrative costs.

Requests for Comment or Support

The APC is frequently consulted for comments, support or advice regarding new programs or policies outside of L&S, at the college, campus or UW System level.

At the college or campus level, APC considered and provided feedback (where appropriate) on the following proposals:

- Nelson Institute – Request to rename MS- Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development to “Environmental Conversation.” *Supported*
- Request for a new undergraduate certificate in Development Economics (CALs). *Approved.*
- Request for a new Capstone Certificate in Geodesign. *Requested additional information, will be reviewed again Fall 2014*
- Work Group Report on Leadership Changes in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research / Dean of Graduate School. *Feedback provided.*
- Discontinued: MS-Community and Environmental Sociology *Supported, because students rarely enroll in this CALS program and there is a more popular program offered in Sociology.*
- Request for a new undergraduate certificate in Sustainability (campus). *Supported.*

The APC advises the dean when UW System seeks comment on programs proposed at other campuses. The council recommended that UW-Madison support (or not oppose) the following:

- MPA, UW-Green Bay
- MA, MA – Africology, UW-Milwaukee
- MS- Applied Statistics, UW-Milwaukee
- MS – Biomedical Informatics (UW-Madison SMPH)
- BS – Ecology, Environment and Conservation Biology (UW-Parkside)
- BS – Data Science (UW River Falls)
- BS/BA – Environmental Sustainability Studies
- MS – Information Science and Technology (UW Milwaukee)
- MWS – Intent to plan (UW-Whitewater)

Program Review

The APC serves as the governance body in the college responsible for receiving reports on academic program reviews, which must be conducted every ten years. In 2013-2014, the Provost asked the Dean to address the substantial backlog of reviews in L&S – while also maintaining the pace of review, so as not to add to that backlog. Enforcing the principles of the streamlined L&S program review guidelines (which focus on

academic programs, rather than on departmental structures and processes), the council completed reviews of:

- Undergraduate Certificate in Middle East Studies
- Undergraduate Certificate: Integrated Liberal Studies
- Undergraduate and Graduate Majors in Communication Arts
- Undergraduate certificate in Asian American Studies
- Undergraduate certificate in American Indian Studies.
- Undergraduate and Graduate Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)
- Sociology – BA/BS Review
- Undergraduate and Graduate Majors in Physics
- Undergraduate Major in International Studies
- Undergraduate and Graduate Majors in Geography, including the BA/BS Geography, MS-Geography, PhD-Geography, BA/BS Cartography and Geographic Information Systems, MS-Cartography and Geographic Information Systems, PhD-Cartography and Geographic Information Systems
- Undergraduate and Graduate Majors in Psychology (focusing on “non-APA accredited” Academic Programs)
- Undergraduate Major in Botany
- Undergraduate Major in Zoology

Members & Observers

Chair: Karl Scholz, Dean

Members

Harry Brighthouse, Philosophy

Thomas Broman, History of Science, Medicine & Technology

Jan Edwards, Communication Science and Disorders

Anna Gemrich, Spanish & Portuguese

Diane Gooding, Psychology

Betty Harwood, Chemistry

John Hawks, Anthropology (*ex officio*, *Chair of L&S Curriculum Committee*)

Clark Johnson, Geoscience

Jennifer Noyes, Institute for Research on Poverty

Matthew Turner, Geography

Ex Officio Observers

Marianne Bird Bear, Asst Dean (International Studies)

Maria Cancian, Assoc. Dean (Social Sci & Fiscal Initiatives)

Kimbrin Cornelius, Curricular Administrative Specialist

Susan Ellis-Weismer, Assoc Dean (Research)

Ann Gunter, Assoc Dean (Budget, Planning & Finance)

Elaine M Klein (Asst Dean (Academic Planning))
Nancy Westphal-Johnson, Assoc Dean (Undergrad Ed & Academic Admin)
Eric Wilcots, Assoc Dean (Natural Sciences)
DeVon Wilson, Asst Dean (Center for Acad Excellence)
Sue Zaeske, Assoc Dean (Advancement, Arts & Humanities)

The L&S Academic Planning Council approved this report on November 4, 2014.
Questions or comments about it may be directed to Dean John Karl Scholz or Assistant
Dean Elaine M. Klein.

Submitted by:

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John Karl Scholz, Dean
Chair, L&S Academic Planning Council