

College of Letters and Science Academic Planning Council
Annual Report to L&S Faculty Senate (2015-2016)

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>

Substantial Changes to L&S Departments/Academic Units

Proposals and issues related to department and unit restructuring comprised a substantial amount of L&S Academic Planning discussion this year. Several small L&S departments are considering restructuring to address issues of resources and/or effective governance. Restructuring requires substantial department discussion and work with L&S Administration – issues of internal governance and committees, budget, research structure/affiliations, nature and scope of academic programs, redistribution of participating faculty and staff lines must all be considered and planned. To facilitate these discussions and help ensure alignment with campus policy established by Faculty Policies & Procedure (FP&P) 5.02 and guidelines issued by the University Academic Planning Council, staff in L&S Administration developed a template for a restructuring proposal that enumerates topics to be addressed in it, and directs authors to specific offices and individuals in L&S administration who can provide data, information, and counsel. That template has been shared with all departments/programs that initiated the restructuring process after January 2015:

The following proposals and action items were reviewed and approved by the council:

- Create new academic departments:
 - Create “Asian Languages and Cultures” from the Departments of East Asian Languages and Literature and Languages and Cultures of Asia
 - Create “German, Nordic, Slavic” from the Departments of German, Scandinavian Studies, and Slavic Languages and Literature
- Request for Permission to Plan to Restructure
 - History and the Department of History of Science
 - Urban and Regional Planning (L&S) and Landscape Architecture (CALs): Request For Permission to Plan to Restructure
 - Linguistics provided an update on their Request for Permission to Restructure

The council also approved several other program changes:

- Request to Change Name:
 - Rename “Department of African Languages and Literature” to “Department of African Cultural Studies”
 - Rename “School of Music” and Concert Hall to “Mead Witter School of Music” and “Mead Witter Foundation Concert Hall”
- Request to Relocate Academic Program, from College of Engineering to L&S, Department of Zoology:

- MS-Freshwater and Marine Sciences
- Doctor of Philosophy, Freshwater and Marine Sciences
- Request to Establish a New L&S Center for Healthy Minds
- Request to change status of Religious Studies to Department-Like Entity

Academic Program Review

All UW-Madison Academic Programs must be reviewed every 10 years. Reviews are convened by the dean, with consideration given to the schedule for review maintained by the Provost and the Office of Academic Planning and Institutional Research. The program faculty prepares a self-study narrative provided to a faculty review committee that reviews the self-study, interviews faculty, staff and student representatives for the program, and prepares a report to the dean. The APC reviews and discusses the self-study, review committee report, and the program's response to the report. Council members advise the dean and associate deans about program strengths, contributions student learning in the discipline, and what might be done to promote improvement. The following programs completed reviews in 2015-16:

- Chemistry
 - BA/BS Chemistry
 - MS Chemistry
 - PhD Chemistry
- Gender and Women's Studies
 - BA/BS Gender and Women's Studies
 - MA Gender and Women's Studies
- East Asian Languages and Literature
 - BA/BS, MA, PhD Chinese
 - BA/BS, MA, PhD Japanese
- Sociology, Graduate Programs (L&S and CALS)
 - PhD Sociology
- Microbiology Undergraduate Program (L&S and CALS, housed in Bacteriology)
 - BA/BS Microbiology
- Molecular Biology (housed in Zoology)
 - BA/BS Molecular Biology
- Mead-Witter School of Music
 - BA/BS Music
 - Bachelor of Music: Education
 - Bachelor of Music: Performance
 - MA Music
 - Master of Music: Education
 - Master of Music: Performance
 - PhD Music
 - Doctor of Musical Arts
- School of Journalism and Mass Communication
 - BA-Journalism

- BS-Journalism
- MA-Journalism
- German, Nordic, Slavic
 - BA/BS German
 - BA/BS Polish
 - BA/BS Scandinavian Studies
 - BA/BS Russian
 - BS of Education: German
 - MA German
 - MA Scandinavian Studies
 - MA Slavic Languages and Literatures
 - PhD German
 - PhD Scandinavian Studies
 - Slavic Languages and Literatures
- Religious Studies Undergraduate Certificate
- Social Work
 - BA/BS Social Welfare
 - BSW (Bachelor of Social Work)
 - MSW (Master of Social Work)
- Library and Information Studies
 - MA Library and Information Studies
 - PhD Library and Information Studies

In addition, a summary review of L&S undergraduate major and certificate programs administered by the Institute for Regional and International Studies (IRIS) was conducted. The following certificates were reviewed in this process:

- African Studies
- East Asian Studies
- European Studies
- Middle East Studies
- Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies
- South Asian Studies
- Southeast Asian Studies

The review of the BA/BS in Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies continues to be under way. Because it may be reconfigured or discontinued as part of the reorganization of programs in Asian Languages and Cultures, the review of the BA/BS major in Asian Studies was placed on hold. Similarly, since admission to the Certificate in Global Cultures have been suspended, the council awaits a request for action concerning that program.

L&S Program Actions

L&S APC considers many different types of requests that have implications for academic programs (create, rename, restructure/move, suspend admission to, or close), centers (create, restructure, close), and academic activity. The following topics were discussed in 2015-16:

- A new Undergraduate Certificate in “Health and Humanities” was approved.
- The “Lubar Institute for the Study of Abrahamic Religions” was renamed and its mission refocused, to become the “Center for Religion and Global Citizenry.”
- Admissions were suspended in the following programs:
 - Named Option “Neurobiology” in Biology Major (related to creation of new BA/BS major in Neurobiology)
 - Celtic Studies Undergraduate Certificate
 - “Ethnomusicology” program tracks in Music PhD programs
- The Named Option in the International Studies Major: “Global Commons/Global Environment” was discontinued.
- Two technical corrections to L&S Centers and Institutes were approved:
 - Rename L&S Center, COWS
 - Remove L&S LEAD Center from list of current Centers
- Economics: A Change in Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code for Graduate Programs will allow the university to more accurately represent these programs as among the quantitative sciences.
- Math: Revisions to Lowest Level Math Courses and the Math Placement strategy will align UW-Madison practice with peer programs and newly articulate statewide expectations about remedial Math instruction.

The council was also asked to consider actions related to the “Specialist Certificate in Gerontology,” which was renamed to become the “Undergraduate Certificate in Aging.” The program sought permission to transfer from the School of Medicine and Public Health to L&S, with a departmental/administrative affiliation with Psychology. The council provisionally approved this request; those provisions concerned undergraduate program oversight by the department and compliance with institutional expectations about the assessment of student learning in it. After extensive discussion, the faculty sponsor withdrew the request.

The council was also consulted about a strategy for sharing Less Commonly Taught Languages with institutions beyond the Big Ten Academic Alliance (formerly known as the Consortium for Institutional Collaboration). A template for engaging in very small-scale language exchanges, taking into account institutional responsibilities (e.g., FERPA, credit-hour requirements, instructor qualifications) and processes (e.g. adequate notice for course scheduling, room and technology management), was approved by the council. The University APC later considered and approved two MOUs based on this template, praising this strategy.

Requests for Comment, Consultation, or Support

L&S is frequently invited to comment on the development of programs and policies outside of L&S, at the college, campus or UW System level. The council offered critique and comment on the following proposals:

- Campus Policy or Guidelines Changes:
 - Proposed Campus Policy on Named Options
 - Proposed Revisions to UAPC Program Review Guidelines
 - Proposed Revisions to UAPC Policy on Low-Award Producing Academic Program
 - Proposed Campus Policy on Minimum Qualifications for Instructors
- Request to create new subject listings:
 - School of Education (WISCIENCE), to create “Integrated Science”
 - Arts Institute (School of Education), to create “Integrated Arts”
- College of Engineering
 - Request to Extend Program Access to L&S Undergraduates, Undergraduate Certificate in Technical Japanese
 - Proposed new Capstone Certificate in Foundations of Professional Development
- Notice of Intent:
 - UW-Madison, Education Policy Studies (SoE), create new Bachelor of Science Education, Education Studies
 - UW-Madison, Biomedical Informatics (SMPH), create new MS/PhD in Biomedical Data Science
 - UW-Eau Claire, create new BA/BS in Neuroscience
 - UW-La Crosse, create new MS Applied Statistics
 - UW-Milwaukee, create new MS/PhD in Atmospheric Science
 - UW-River Falls, create a new BS in Neuroscience
 - UW-Superior, create new BA/BS majors in Environmental Studies and in Environmental Sciences

Consultations of the Dean

The Dean often seeks the counsel of the L&S APC on issues related to the College. In 2015-2016, Council members discussed impact of budget cuts, the process and documentation for Department/Program Restructuring, and articulating more clearly the Dean’s aspirations for students in the liberal arts and sciences.

This report was approved by the L&S APC on October 18, 2016.

Submitted by Elaine M. Klein, Associate Dean for Academic Planning