

Eighteen Senators or alternates were in attendance.

1. There were no announcements or updates.
2. Notes of the L&S Faculty Senate meeting held 20 November 2017 were approved by Senators present at that meeting.
3. Dean Scholz invited Professor Seth Blair, chair of the L&S Curriculum Committee, to present the annual report of the committee, covering its activities from Academic Year 2017-18. (This report is filed as L&S FacDoc 306.) Professor Blair reviewed the composition of the committee, noting the presence and participation of administrative staff who assist the faculty, to make more clear the implications of approving proposals under review. The committee is responsible for college-level approval of substantive changes to academic program that are implemented in degree audit (for undergraduates) and published in the Guide (all programs). The L&S CC also reviews proposals to add, change, or delete courses, administers the L&S Interdisciplinary Subject Listing, and considers policy changes affecting the L&S undergraduate degree requirements. In 2017-18, the committee considered proposals to: revise or update twelve undergraduate majors and two graduate degree programs; create or change five certificate programs; and create two new graduate programs. The Committee reviewed requests to change 314 L&S courses, create 128 new L&S courses, and delete 16 courses. The committee also considered and approved 50 requests from other schools and college to allow non-L&S courses to meet L&S degree requirements. Dean Scholz highlighted one important aspect of the committee's work, which involved approval of the new L&S Major in Landscape and Urban Studies, which will be offered by the new L&S Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture. There were no further questions or comments about the report, and Dean Scholz thanked Professor Blair and the committee for their work.
4. The Report of the Faculty Honors Committee concerning Academic Year 2017-18 was submitted as L&S Faculty Document 307. Dean Scholz provided an overview of the way Honors admits students, observing that all students are eligible to apply for membership in the program; however, the structure of the program requires active engagement such that students in L&S "earn" their honors. He also noted that students in the program reflect greater diversity than the general undergraduate student population, which is a further point of pride for the program and College. There were no questions concerning the report.
5. Report of the L&S Academic Planning Council (Academic Year 2017-18) presented as L&S Faculty Document 308. Elaine Klein, Associate Dean for Academic Planning, presented the report for Dean Scholz. The council completed academic program reviews in ten topical areas, covering 20 certificates, majors, and degree programs; Dean Scholz noted that this work requires active engagement by faculty in units under review, as well as faculty who

serve on review committees, and he thanked Senators and their colleagues for this service to the college and institution. The APC approved discontinuation of several very-low enrollment or unused programs, as well as technical changes to programs. Among the council's most substantive work was consideration of substantive changes to L&S departments/units. The APC approved a request for permission to restructure the Department of Comparative Literature and Folklore Studies and to suspend admission to all programs while plans for change are developed. The APC also approved the merger the CALS Department of Landscape Architecture with the L&S/CALS Department of Urban and Regional Planning to create the new L&S Department of Planning & Landscape Architecture, and to revise several academic programs to reflect the new L&S-based program home. These actions were later endorsed by the University APC. There were no questions concerning the report.

6. Dean Scholz provided a summary of the State of the College, and answered questions from the Senate. In his remarks, he cited:
 - a. Points of pride for L&S, including excellent undergraduate graduation and retention rates; good faculty retention statistics, anticipated excellence in new hires, and a greater range of funding sources and programs to support hires; excellence in research, with several L&S faculty also spotlighted in local and national news.
 - b. New Initiatives: listening sessions designed to help L&S research administrators learn more about how to improve research operations; UW-Madison "enrollment expansion" and plans to keep pace with growth; "Bucky's Tuition Promise" and service to state; L&S Climate Survey and roll-out of the online Performance Evaluation System; "Inclusive Excellence" and efforts to encourage departmental climate committees, reduce grade gaps for under-represented students, continue to improve graduation rates; Target-of-Opportunity hiring proposals; Excellence in Teaching & Learning and continuation of the L&S Inclusive Teaching workshops; and finally, links to the various ways the L&S Communications team uses to tell the L&S story in digital and print publications and in social media.

In discussion, Senators asked if funds from non-pooled tuition programs can help build new buildings. To some extent, revenue from these programs can help fund remodeling of existing space, but "soft money" from non-pooled tuition can't be used for large-scale projects. The college has completed a master planning process that identified many issues with L&S space and prioritized several building projects. Short-term goals are to be opportunistic and strategic to improve and modernize classrooms, and to "be smart" about space use so the schedule of course reflects the full period in which rooms are available.

Another question focused on whether L&S is concerned about enrollment expansion, and losing students to other schools/colleges. Dean Scholz encouraged L&S programs to be active and to engage students by offering distinct programming to attract students. At the college-level, one such program is Successworks, which offers career advising for a changing world. L&S enrollments overall are holding steady, but there are patterns that warrant attention, such as rapidly increasing interest in STEM programs.

In response to a final question concerning the outcome of the recent gubernatorial election, the dean declined to offer detailed projections about the budget. He did observe that general pressures on state budgets don't change much, and divided government brings its own challenges.

The meeting ended at 5:05 p.m.

Submitted by Elaine M. Klein, Ph.D.
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