

COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE FACULTY SENATE MEETING - NOTES

11 November 2019

3:45 – 5:00 p.m.

19 Ingraham

There were 18 senators in attendance.

1. Announcements and Updates. Dean Wilcots delayed announcements to the end of the meeting to accommodate a conflict for one of the presenters.
2. Notes of the L&S Faculty Senate meeting held 19 November 2018 had been distributed and a motion to approve them as the record of that meeting was approved.
3. Report of the L&S Curriculum Committee, L&S Faculty Document #309. Professor Ridgely presented the report of the committee's activities for 2017-18. The report summarizes the committee's approval of changes to academic programs and cases where proposals were not approved. Several new programs were approved (e.g., undergraduate majors in Data Science in in Landscape and Urban Studies, Certificate in Sports Communication). The committee reviewed hundreds of proposals to add, change or discontinue courses. It refined the L&S BA/BS learning outcomes for "breadth" and improved communication about how related to how courses meet degree requirements. It approved procedures for the Inter-L&S subject listing, reviewed requests to offer credit by exam, and offered guidance to departments concerning presentation of program requirements in the Guide. Professor Ridgely thanked the members of the committee and its advisors. There were no questions.
4. Report of the Faculty Honors Committee, covering the Academic Year 2018-19, L&S Faculty Document #310. Professor Sabine Gross, Director of the L&S Honors Program, presented the report. She summarized the mission and provided data on students served by the program. The program has seen increase student interest, and admissions and program completions have increased. With a new and larger staff, Honors is able to serve more students. Senators were encouraged to visit the website to learn more the Honors Program. Professor Gross invited Senators to get involved in the program and teach these highly motivated, highly engaged students. She thanked the faculty and staff who serve on the committee and work with the program. There were no questions.
5. Report of the L&S Academic Planning Council covering Academic Year 18-19, L&S Faculty Document 311. Associate Dean for Academic Planning, Elaine Klein, presented the report. She summarized the role of the APC. The council completed many academic program reviews in the prior year and was on track to complete several reviews that had been unavoidably delayed or deferred in prior years. The APC also received updates on previously restructured academic departments and approved curricular changes related to those departmental changes, such as relocating and resuming admission to the Undergraduate Certificate in Folklore, reformulating the undergraduate major in Landscape and Urbans Studies, and renaming and rearranging subject listings that support instruction in Asian Languages and Cultures. The APC, serving as the dean's advisory body, participated in discussion of metrics that inform budget allocation, incentives to expand Summer term instruction, non-pooled revenue (or 131) programs, and the

expansion of online undergraduate degrees. The APC revised its bylaws to clarify governance and election procedures. There were no questions.

6. Interim Dean Wilcots presented the annual State of the College report and facilitated a discussion with the Senate. He highlighted L&S faculty in the news, the grand opening of the new Hamel Music Center, and new faculty joining the College. L&S Administration has been reorganized, with a new administrative division (the “School of Computer Data and Information Sciences,” or CDIS) that brings together the iSchool, Computer Sciences, and Statistics under a new Associate Dean. CDIS is not a free-standing school, but a reorganized structure that will help lower barriers between these units and explore synergies to improve research, strengthen curricula, enhance data literacy, and to enrich civil society in the 21st century.

Interim Dean Wilcots reported that L&S is in a strong financial position, thanks to revenue generated by professional programs, VISP, Summer term enrollments, enrollment expansion, and generous donors. Based on this position, he had authorized another round of faculty hiring. He noted that the college takes pride in the quality of undergraduate instruction, and encouraged faculty to think about what departments can do to ensure that the student experience is good. Several endeavors are under way in L&S Teaching & Learning Administration and Student Academic Affairs, intended to provide better support for teaching assistants and for student programs. He also shared a few of many points of pride concerning research, noting that because of the capacity to work across disciplines, research in L&S should be at the forefront of tackling grand challenges. To help support that aspiration, the L&S research services team has been restructured and was under leadership of a new assistant dean; a search for a new associate dean will be started.

Two important efforts are also underway: first, campus has a goal of expanding online programming to include undergraduate degrees, and L&S is supporting delivery of General Education and “breadth” courses the first program (School of Human Ecology BS-Personal Finance Online). Second, campus and L&S will increase efforts to address issues of diversity and inclusion at UW-Madison. Department chairs have been asked to work on this issue, and particularly to ensure that all students feel welcome and part of UW-Madison. The interim dean will be looking at college level support for initiatives in this area, and he encouraged departments to consider what they can do to support students, to identify new strategies that will make the college a true and diverse place.

In discussion, Senators asked about:

- Whether the new budget model promotes unhealthy competition between departments for tuition dollars, or to offer courses within their department but outside their discipline. Interim Dean Wilcots noted that one of the strengths of UW-Madison is that “disciplines stay in their lanes” and curriculum committees and program requirements are tools to enforce that; we hope decisions are made to serve students well.
- Campus and College efforts to ensure that when new faculty arrive, they have spaces conducive to the work they will do. Noting concerns about the time required to complete the process for remodeling space, and the process for seeking permission to build new buildings, Interim Dean Wilcots agreed that this is a vexing problem for L&S. The recently

completed master plan revealed issues with some facilities, noted concerns about the overall process for rebuilding and remodeling, and that campus leaders are working to improve it.

- New Policy for Approval to Teach Courses Online. The new policy is intended to ensure that online courses taught in Fall/Spring – and likely to residential students - conform to good practices with respect to instructional design.

The Senate adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Submitted by Elaine M. Klein, Ph.D.

Associate Dean for Academic Planning and Secretary, L&S Faculty

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