

College of Letters and Science Academic Planning Council - approved 10/16/2012

Tuesday, October 2, 2012

1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

304 South Hall (Conference Room)

ATTENDANCE:

Chair: Susan Ellis-Weismer

Members present: Kate Bartlett, Harry Brighthouse, Tom Givnish, Diane Gooding, John Hawks, Clark Johnson, Maria Muniagurria, Jennifer Noyes, Matt Turner

Observers: Maria Cancian, Gery Essenmacher, Anne Gunther, Elaine Klein, Lucy Mathiak, Eric Wilcots, Sue Zaeske, Kimbrin Cornelius, Jon Sorenson, DeVon Wilson,

Guests: David Baum, Mary Beth Ellis, Dana Geary

Absent: Gary Sandefur, Nancy Westphal-Johnson, Marianne Bird-Bear

1. Announcements. SEW is chairing the meeting in GS's absence. a.) Review of L&S events for the semester- Chairs Breakfasts, Administrative Training Sessions, New Employee Welcome, Plenary Chairs and L&S Senate. b.) Review of how the Presidents upcoming visit will affect L&S buildings and departments.
2. Notes of the September 18, 2012 were approved.
3. Academic Program Changes.
 - a. Request to plan a PHD in Evolutionary Biology (EB). EW provided an overview of the proposal, which is sponsored by members of the Crow Institute for Evolutionary Biology. That body serves to organize the EB community on campus, and works with a number of departments that have programs that focus on evolutionary biology. This proposal seeks to create a joint doctoral program that would be completed in connection to other existing programs that allow for an EB focus. UW-Madison does not currently have an EB program (as other prominent peers do), so this program may help recruit high quality EB students to the university. The joint model was chosen for budgetary and student reasons. A freestanding program requires significant resources to support students, whereas this model proposes to enroll students that have funding from their home departments. The program would complement rather than compete with other departments for students. In discussion, committee members noted that peer programs often combine EB with Ecology, and asked whether the institute had considered this model; this had been considered but not pursued, in part because developing a core curriculum that combined these areas would be difficult, made more so by the relative lack of interest expressed by the Ecology community. A committee member noted that requirements seem to be fairly minimal for a doctoral program, and that the requirements would need to conform to Graduate School rules for awarding joint degrees. DB explained that participating home departments requested that requirements be kept "reasonable" so students could participate. SEW reviewed the two-stage, multi-step approval process, and EMK noted defining a detailed curriculum would be part of the implementation phase and would include review and approval by the Grad School. A motion to support Permission to Plan a New Doctoral Program in Evolutionary Biology was approved. The next phase of the process will be to work with CALS to ensure that appropriate comment has been sought and, if so, transmit the request to the Provost and Graduate School.
 - b. Request to Create a New Undergraduate Certificate Program in Statistics. EW provided an overview of the proposal. During the last several years there has been a large increase in Statistics students. The goal of the certificate is to provide some meaningful training in applied statistics for students who are not interested in the major. The certificate will prepare

students for graduate study or for employment. In discussion, committee members noted that the department may have underestimated student interest, and that this program could grow quickly. Members asked if the certificate requirements provide structure and guidance for students who are interested in gaining only an intermediate level of experience, and wondered if the requirements should allow higher level substitutions for more advanced students. There was an extended conversation about several departments, especially in the Social Sciences, that may have an interest in this certificate and which may offer courses that could contribute to or benefit from better coordination with the department. Members suggested communication with these departments across L&S to learn about their offerings in applied statistics, to consider whether certificate requirements could be met by courses taught in other departments, and if Statistics would be interested in working with departments to provide discipline-appropriate statistics foundation for more students in L&S. The council did not take action on this proposal, but referred it back to EW for further discussion.

4. Consultation of the Dean: Overview of L&S Fiscal Planning Process.
 - a. The Role of the L&S APC in fiscal planning. SEW reviewed FP&P 3.08, which describes APC involvement in budgetary planning, and reviewed the set of criteria used in allocating resources and for making fiscal decisions.
 - b. Proposed Campus Resource Allocation Model. This item was tabled until such time as Dean Sandefur can meet with the Council.
 - c,d. MC provided an overview of the Budget Status Report Process (BSR) and the Critical Compensation Fund (CFF) Process. One of GS's goals is to shrink the salary gap for L&S faculty. Departments will be responsible for a match, at a time when budget resources are staying the same or declining. Departments will need to make decisions about funding priorities as there is no one-size fits all solution. For example, some departments may be able to increase efficiencies, some may lose faculty lines, some may shrink graduate programs, others may choose to innovate if they are able to generate additional revenue in a way that fits within their mission.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, Curriculum Administration Specialist