

## College of Letters and Science Academic Planning Council

Tuesday, February 5, 2013 Notes (approved 2/19/2013)

1:00-2:30 pm

101 South Hall (Dean's Conference Room).

Attendance List:

Chair: S. Ellis-Weismer

Members present: K. Bartlett, T. Broman, H. Brighthouse, D. Gooding, J. Hawks, C. Johnson, M. Muniagurria, J. Noyes, M. Turner

Observers: M Cancian, G. Essenmacher, A. Gunther, E. Klein, L. Mathiak, N. Westphal Johnson, E. Wilcots, S. Zaeske

Absent: J. Edwards (sabbatical), G. Sandefur

Guests representing of Biology Major and CALS: Sarah Pfatteicher, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, CALS, Donna Fernandez, Professor of Botany and Co-chair, Biology Major.

1. Announcements. (a) Nominations are being sought for APC seats (Humanities faculty or instructional academic staff); (b) Two "notices of intent" were received over semester break and circulated to units for comment. UW-River Falls plans to create a new MS in Computer Science, and comments from Madison's department of Computer Science were forwarded to the provost. UW-River Falls plans to create a BS in Criminology; no L&S departments/programs expressed concern. (c) The proposed Campus-wide Directed Study Policy was endorsed by the L&S Curriculum Committee on 1/22/2013. DG suggested further clarification in the policy on who may teach a Directed Study course. (d) The ad hoc Diversity Planning Committee is hosting a symposium "Inclusive Excellence" in February, and is engaging the campus community in envisioning a comprehensive plan around issues of diversity.
2. Notes from 12/18/2012 meeting were approved by members who were present at that meeting.
3. Academic Program Review. (a) Certificate Program Review: Undergraduate Certificate in Spanish for Business Majors. SZ provide an overview of the certificate program: it is a fifteen credit program designed to help Business Majors gain competency in Spanish language and cultural knowledge of the Hispanic world. Concerns expressed in the self-report included (1) the lack of instructional and funding support from the School of Business, and (2) whether certain courses should meet requirements. In discussion, members noted that many L&S departments provide undergraduate offerings for students in other schools without expectation of financial contributions (for example, all Business Majors must take an ethics course offered by L&S). Members also noted the Spanish department has curriculum authority, and should determine how courses will meet requirements. Members unanimously approved a motion to accept the report and continue the certificate program, with the expectation that the department will exercise its authority over curricular matters in the program (for example, by determining which courses may be used to meet requirements).
4. Request for Comment. (a) Engineering: Request to change the name of the graduate academic programs (MS, PhD and minor), from Limnology and Marine Science to Freshwater and Marine Science. EW presented the request, and noted the name change reflects the broad scope of research conducted in the program. He also noted this name change is only for the graduate programs; the Center for Limnology will keep its current name. A motion to approve the request passed unanimously.
5. Academic Program Changes.
  - (a) First Discussion – Biology: Proposal to relocate administrative home of Biology major from Institute for Biology Education to academic departments in L&S (Zoology) and CALS (Bacteriology). EW led the discussion, with guests Sarah Pfatteicher, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, CALS, and Donna Fernandez, Professor of Botany and Co-chair, Biology Major. EW provided an overview of the document distributed to members, *Detailed Plan for Implementation of the Proposal to House the Biology Major in CALS and L&S*, a plan requested

by Deans Sandefur and VandenBosch. Bacteriology, Zoology, and CALS committees are also involved in discussion about the detailed plan. The broad proposed actions include (1) Move the main “home” of the Biology major to Zoology and Bacteriology the Biology major, with the primary responsibility for introductory biology courses in Zoology, and the lead responsibility for the major in Bacteriology; (2) Appointment of co-chairs (one assigned by Bacteriology and Zoology each); (3) Increase of advising capacity by adding advising staff and encouraging faculty advising; (4) Establish a Biology Major Program committee with representation from across biology programs; (5) Establish a plan for convening joint meetings of CALS and L&S APC Committees for Biology Major related issues. The document also includes a budget. Members’ discussion included appreciation of additional staff advisors, and that it will bring advising/student ration into alignment with national averages. Concern was expressed that splitting the home could inadvertently create competition for resources and students. SP responded that departments don’t necessarily receive extra additional funding now if they have more students in their major, and this aspect wouldn’t change. Rather, the plan formally expresses that the colleges and departments need to partner closely in regards to both administration of the major and introductory biology courses, and each department will take a lead in one of the areas. NWJ added that usually students don’t take introductory courses their first semester, so SOAR would likely not contribute to concerns about competition. Members also expressed concern that this solution still involves putting the major in a department that doesn’t necessarily have a strong affiliation with the major. EW responded that the co-chairs will expected to take a strong lead for the major. Discussion about why this major is so popular was responded to by DH: The major is very flexible, with students being able to choose from a wide variety of courses and subjects. Some members also expressed hesitation about approving a plan that has important aspects of the budget missing, such as where funds will be coming from. EW responded that the Provost requested a budget that included only the resources that will be needed, as a first step towards completing the budget plan. No action taken, discussion item only.

- (b) Approval item – Biological Aspects of Conservation: Proposal to relocate administration of BAC major from Institute for Biology Education to L&S (Botany). EW led discussion, and mentioned that in a future meeting the committee will review a document that proposes moving Molecular Biology from IBE to Zoology. Member discussion centered on a lack of a concrete advising plan; advising is already a frustration with BAC students, and this will cause a large influx of majors into the Botany department. EW responded that staff advising in biology majors is currently a topic of conversation in L&S senior staff; L&S is aware of the need and that additional resources are needed in this area. A motion to approve the proposal passed, with the advice to the department and program committee that every step should be taken to improve the advising experience through encouraging faculty advising and increasing resources allocated to staff advising.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, Curriculum Administration Specialist