

College of Letters and Science Academic Planning Council (*approved April 2, 2013*)

Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 19, 2013

Meeting Time: 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Location: 101 South Hall (Dean's Conference Room)

ATTENDANCE:

Chair: Gary Sandefur

Members present: Kate Bartlett, Harry Brighthouse, Diane Gooding, Clark Johnson, Maria Muniagurria, Matt Turner, Tom Broman, Tom Givnish

Observers: Maria Cancian, Susan Ellis-Weismer, Gery Essenmacher, Anne Gunther, Elaine Klein, Lucy Mathiak, Nancy Westphal-Johnson, Eric Wilcots, Sue Zaeske, Kimbrin Cornelius

Guests: Jeff Hardin, Donna Fernandez, Rick Gourse, Sarah Pfatteicher, Jim Raymo, Alberto Polloni.

Absent: Caroline Levine (will have a schedule conflict all semester), Jennifer Noyes, John Hawks

1. Announcements. (a) GS noted the passing of Don Nichols, Professor Emeritus of Economics. (b) GS provided an update on the Chancellor search and that the list of finalists would be released later this week. (c) GS provided an update on the success of annual giving campaign, which exceeded its goal.

2. Notes from February 5, 2013 were approved by members present at that meeting.

3. Request for Permission to Repurpose Old Subject Listing Number (English-350) as "English as a Second Language." SZ led discussion. The APC recently approved a new subject listing for the English course array; nearly all English courses will be moved to this new listing as part of a renumbering project the English department has undertaken. This related proposal requests that English as Second Language courses remain in the current 350- subject listing, and the listing be renamed "ESL." ESL courses can expand in the subject listing, and students will be able to easily find the courses. A motion to approve the request to change the name of the subject code 350 from "English" to "ESL" carried unanimously.

4. Academic Program Review. (a) Certificate in Computer Sciences. EW led discussion. The certificate was created in 2007, with a goal of completing 30-40 students per year. It is a six-course program: two basic courses, two advanced courses, and two electives. About 35 students per year have been completing the certificate, which aligns with the stated goals. The review recommends continuation of the certificate. Committee members offered feedback related to assessment. One member noted that if the program aspires to help students apply what they learn in real-world contexts after graduation, it may make sense to maintain contact with graduates, for purposes of assessing whether the program is meeting the goal of providing these valuable employment and life skills. Other members noted that the assessment plan cites course-level outcomes, but does not discuss how those extend to the over-arching program learning goals. Further, future assessment activities seem to focus on selecting courses; members suggest that the department should try to evaluate whether students are achieving learning outcomes (as noted above) to determine whether students are learning or able to apply what the programs is intending for them to learn. Finally, members asked for clarification about why students taking 367 do not need to take 302. A motion to accept the review, provide the program with the assessment feedback and to approve the continuation of the certificate was approved unanimously.

5. Academic Program Change. (a) Second Discussion – Biology: Proposal to relocate the administrative home of Biology Major from Institute for Biology Education to academic departments in L&S (Zoology) and CALS (Bacteriology). Guests attending the discussion were Jeff Hardin (Chair, Zoology), Rick Gourse (Chair, Bacteriology), Donna Fernandez (Co-Chair, Biology Major program committee), Sarah Pfatteicher (CALS Associate Dean for Academic Affairs). EW led discussion. He discussed the draft, which outlines

administrative changes, clarifies responsibilities for the co-chairs for the Biology, supervision of advising personnel, and the responsibilities of those who will provide advising in the major. Committee members spent some time discussing existing and proposed options, the concept of how much specialization merits creation of an option, and whether specializations may overlap with existing majors. Discussions such as this fall within purview of the program committee, curriculum committees, and APC; substantive changes will be required to move through all appropriate governance channels. Members asked guests whether the proposed governance structure for the major would allow faculty across departments to work together, and guests replied affirmatively. Guests added that the proposed changes are fairly conservative, retaining day-to-day operations much as they have been, but under a different upper-level administrative structure. EMK noted that these changes will not call for creation of a new APC will be created, but that the colleges will work together to convene joint meetings of CALS and L&S APCs and curriculum committees. A motion to approve the plan, contingent on Bacteriology, Zoology, and Biology program approvals, was passed unanimously. GS thanked all individuals involved for the time and effort they contributed to create this plan.

6. Action Item: Request to change administrative home for the Centers for Demography and Ecology (CDE) and for Demography, Health, and Aging (CDHA) from Sociology to L&S. Guests attending the discussion were Alberto Palloni (Director, CDHA) and Jim Raymo (Director, CDE). MC led discussion. She reviewed that members had seen an earlier version of the proposal, the current proposal addresses feedback provided by the APC committee. Two documents were submitted, one for each center; they were accompanied by a letter of support from Sociology. The documents describe the centers' mission, governance, support from Sociology, and how students are served; these features are not changing. Teaching releases, staffing, and other support provided by the centers' key partners (Sociology, SSRC, SSCC, DISC) will remain the same, as illustrated by organizational charts provided. MC noted that the units had agreed to a default allocation of resources; however, these partners understand that the allocation will likely be handled more flexibly, given variations in the departments and centers' needs. Members discussed a number of details concerning appointment of the Executive Committee, course releases for directors who are not from Sociology. AP reiterated that future grant support will depend on the extent to which these centers demonstrate their interdisciplinary connection (i.e., that they are not operating under and answering to a single academic department), particularly in light of the more diverse pool of graduate students that are likely to be supported by these units (e.g., Sociology, Economics, Population Health). A motion to approve the proposal requesting to change the administrative home for the Centers for Demography and Ecology (CDE) and for Demography, Health, and Aging (CDHA) from Sociology to L&S was passed unanimously.

7. Consultations of the Dean. (a) Discussion of "Key Principles" for Educational Initiatives. MC led discussion, asked for feedback about EI and how the initiatives fit into how the university works, our priorities, etc. Members noted that there is cynicism about some of the language—it has come from a place of needing to do more with less, but that isn't explicit in EI documents. Members also noted frustration with lack of flexibility in some areas which may allow for more innovation: certain scheduling issues, teaching a course that meets for only part of a semester, etc.

The meeting adjourned at 2:21 pm

Notes submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, Curricular Administration Specialist