

College of Letters and Science Academic Planning Council

Tuesday, December 18, 2012 Notes (approved 2/5/2012)

1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

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, M. Turner, G. Sandefur (arrived 1:45)

Observers: M. Bird-Bear, M. Cancian, G. Essenmacher, A. Gunther, E. Klein, L. Mathiak, N. Westphal-Johnson (arrived 1:45), E. Wilcots, D. Wilson,

Absent: T. Givnish, Jennifer Noyes, S. Zaeske

Guests representing Department of Mathematics: Professors Leslie Smith (Chair), Andrees Seeger, Shi Jin

1. Announcements. (a) NWJ and GS were at an emergency planning meeting to discuss closing campus during the blizzard. (b) Welcome to Prof. Tom Broman (History of Science) who will serve the remainder of 12-13 for Prof. Levine. (c) The request to Merge Comparative Literature and Folklore Program was submitted to the Provost; the revised documents were circulated to APC. The merger will be discussed at the 12/20 UAPC meeting. If approved, the request will be taken to the Faculty Senate. (d) An essay by a former UW-Madison faculty member, Ben Rifkin (Slavic) on "Defending the Liberal Arts" was circulated to the council:
<http://www.insidehighered.com/views/2012/11/27/why-scott-walkers-focus-pushing-graduates-specific-majors-wrong-essay> (e) The proposed new HR Design was approved by the Faculty Senate and accepted by the UW System Board of Regents. (f) SEW reported that the search committee for the new Dean had been appointed, and read their names to the council. EMK will circulate the press release. (g) The dean's update on the proposed resource allocation was postponed.

SEW asked to reorder the agenda, so that guests from Mathematics could be accommodated.

5. Academic Program Change – Educational Innovation, Mathematics: Request to create Named Option in MA-Mathematics, "Foundations of Advanced Studies" This proposal has two elements to this proposal, one of which requires APC action. The department plans to create a site and program of study for international students to study Math at UW-Madison; the department also seeks permission to create a new named option in an existing degree program, so some students who may have participated in the new Visiting International Student Program may earn, at an accelerated pace, a Master's degree that builds on work they pursued while in that program. The proposal was developed in consultation with staff in L&S and the Provost's Office. EW led discussion, noting that the accelerated master's design had some similarity to another new program in Economics. The program will allow students who are very well prepared in Math to complete a MA in short order; they will then be adequately prepared for further study or for professional careers that require advanced training in math. Since there are few standalone master's programs in this field, this is filling a distinct niche. A particular group of international students is interested in this program. Because this is an innovative program connected with the Visiting International Students, the program will fund itself. In discussion, members asked about the arrangement with Shanghai Jiao Tong University, the number of students who expected to participate, credits taken in residence and analysis of prior work and requirement waivers, and availability of courses. APC members asked for better clarification of the purpose the program will serve (professional or academic or both). When asked about instructional capacity for the program, department members noted that all courses required for this program have capacity. A motion to approve the request passed unanimously.

2. Notes of the November 6, 2012 were approved, with members not in attendance at that meeting abstaining.
3. Info Item: Draft Campus Policy on Directed Study. EMK led discussion, noting that this topic had already been discussed by the L&S Curriculum Committee. She noted that the draft campus policy relies heavily on the L&S policy, which was developed by the L&S CC after problems with these courses were brought to the College's attention. The need for a campus policy is related to Federal guidelines that impose a standard definition of the credit hour; campus policy should demonstrate reasonable compliance with that definition. EMK will share APC observations with campus. Members discussed the need for a limit (credits or headcount), variation in the nature of projects pursued, department practices for establishing 'local' expectations, and other aspects of administering these courses. EMK will convey that there were no revisions suggested, and that policy seems like a good idea.
4. Academic Program Review: Certificate Program Review: Undergraduate Certificate in Archaeology. MC led discussion, summarizing the requirements for this interdisciplinary program that is administered by Anthropology. She noted that program revisions had already been approved by the L&S CC, contingent on APC action to continue the program. A motion to accept the review and continue the program was unanimously approved. The next review of this program will be conducted when the Department of Anthropology undergraduate programs are reviewed.
6. Consultations of the Dean
 - a. Optimal Department Size. GS led discussion about restructuring in the college; he noted that L&S has some very small departments, some of which have very few tenured faculty members, which may make it difficult to do all of the work of the department that is required of those faculty members. Another concern is that very small departments do not have the staff to manage all of the enterprise systems now used, and to have the training and expertise to do their best work with them. GS asked how departments might be encouraged to consider alternative structures. Members discussed how department name and structure have an effect on reputation, the merits of having "the only department" of a particular type, combining departmental services but maintaining distinct faculties, and how affiliations need to have intellectual coherence. Business processes and advising are already being shared in some ways.
 - b. Educational Innovations. NWJ listed a number of innovations and areas currently being discussed, including restructuring, expanding distance education, and creating new programs (including adding VISPs). Campus has also circulated calls for proposals to support developing distance education and other innovations.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Submitted by Elaine M. Klein, Assistant Dean for Academic Planning