

APC Brief Notes

College of Letters and Science Academic Planning Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 3 September 2013

Meeting Time: 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

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

ATTENDANCE:

Chair: Karl Scholz

Members present: Harry Brighthouse, Jan Edwards, Ann Gemrich, Diane Gooding, John Hawks, Clark Johnson, Jennifer Noyes, Matthew Turner

Observers: Maria Cancian, Kimbrin Cornelius, Susan Ellis-Weismer, Gery Essenmacher, Ann Gunther, Elaine Klein, Nancy Westphal-Johnson, Susan Weismer, Eric Wilcots, Devon Wilson, Sue Zaeske

Absent: Tom Broman

1. Introductions and Announcements. Committee members and observers introduced themselves.
2. Welcome and Orientation. KS provided an overview of his values and vision for L&S, explained the need for a focused group of priorities, and the importance of keeping a similar message for both internal and external audiences. Priority areas include (a.) Preserve and enhance our status as a research powerhouse; (b.) Create life-changing learning experiences. (c) Embrace liberal arts and essential to research and innovation as well as to prepare students for a lifetime of work and engaged global citizenship; and (c) Extend the benefits of the UW beyond the campus – the Wisconsin Idea. KS invited feedback on how to articulate the connections between research and teaching. Committee members noted that students involved in undergraduate research often say it was their most important experience as an undergraduate, that it can make a large university smaller, that as a graduate school we play an important part in mentoring future faculty that will go on to teach at other colleges, and finally, that we can do more to encourage students to engage in undergraduate research.

KS also reviewed the "L&S Career Initiative," to address concerns expressed by students, parents, legislators or other constituents that may not know what a student can do with a major in _____ (fill in any L&S major) or don't understand/can't articulate how liberal arts majors have practical applications to careers, or feel that a liberal arts degree is a luxury in today's economy. The initiative would include systematically assessing post-graduation outcomes, providing developmentally appropriate career services, refining career-related learning outcomes for majors, and making career-related connections and networks with alumni (such as LinkedIn networks). Committee members agreed this is important, and shared examples of related work being done in their own departments. In particular, they noted that involving alumni with current students has an energizing effect on alumni and creates more ways for them to engage with their departments. Several committee members with college-aged children shared how other colleges communicate with them and their children. They noticed that other colleges and universities did a much better job than UW Madison of articulating to students and parents the importance of liberal arts education, where their graduates are employed, the opportunities their students have, and great things their alumni are doing. Lastly, KS reviewed some additional priorities—strengthening the budget model, innovations, and advancement.

3. Consultative of the Dean: The Year Ahead. KS provided a brief overview of some issues and proposals likely to come up in the year ahead. The pace of program reviews will likely increase. The College of the Arts may resurface as the Wisconsin Institute for the Performing Arts. And, the committee will soon see the Report on the Division of International Studies, compiled by David McDonald. Upcoming are two

related items – the Climate Committee Report, and a campus policy on Civility/Anti-Bullying. Committee members agreed that that phrase ‘hostile work environment’ is more appropriate and descriptive than terms ‘bullying’ or ‘civil.’

KS also presented ideas regarding the Chancellor’s request for “Big Think” ideas from each college: ‘Creating Opportunities’ and “STEM and 21st Century Ideas,” and invited additional ideas or feedback on his presented ideas. Committee members agreed that ‘making connections’ is an important component of L&S education, and can encompass a wide variety of programs and initiatives (undergraduate research, L&S Career Initiative, as well as connections between different disciplines to approach or solve a problem). Perhaps this concept could be added to the first idea, “Making Connections, Creating Opportunities”. Members also noted the flexibility of this idea could incorporate a variety of ways to connect with alumni or advancement. Finally, committee members noted that a strength of L&S is the variety of disciplines included within it, and Big Think ideas should capitalize on this.

Meeting adjourned 2:04 pm.

Notes submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, Curricular Administration Specialist