

Meeting Notes :

L&S Academic Planning Council, Tuesday, October 15, 2013, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m

Location: 6201 Microbial Sciences Bldg

Attendance:

Chair: Karl Scholz (with Kate Vanden Bosch for joint CALS & LS portion of the meeting)

L&S Members present: Diane Gooding, Jan Edwards, Harry Brighthouse, Jan Edwards, Clark Johnson, Tom Broman, Anna Gemrich, John Hawks, Matt Turner. L&S Members absent: Betty Harwood

L&S Observers present: Eric Wilcots, Sue Zaeske, Kimbrin Cornelius, Anne Gunther, Maria Cancian, Elaine Klein, Devon Wilson, Susan Ellis-Weismer

Joint Meeting with College of Agricultural and Life Sciences APC.

KVB provided an updated that the CALS APC approved a motion to support the proposal for a new undergraduate L&S major in neurobiology. The CALS APC hopes the planning process will include efforts to ensure CALS students may complete the program .

1. Proposal to Create New Option in Undergraduate Biology Major: Plant Sciences. EMK provided a summary of discussion at the joint meeting of L&S and CALS Curriculum Committees. CC members discussed impacts on existing plant sciences majors, and were satisfied department faculty have interest in and capacity to support the program. Some CC members asked detailed questions about the tension between creating new options, and elevating the popular options to become new, independent majors; concerns were expressed about having too many majors, and about students seeking more credentials than are meaningful. Nevertheless, committee members observed that many students will find this option attractive, and both committees were supportive of this proposal. A motion to approve the request to create a new Plant Sciences Option in the undergraduate Biology major was approved unanimously by the L&S committee. The CALS committee also approved the request.

2. Undergraduate Sustainability Certificate. KVB invited second discussion on the revised proposal. CALS members noted that, given the proposal's definition of sustainability, the certificate could use greater grounding in biological/agronomy. Members acknowledged this feedback may be in tension with the committee's previous suggestion of decreasing the required number of credits. (And, that achieving full breadth is something interdisciplinary programs often struggle with). Members again expressed concern that no apparent criteria are used to determine whether a course should meet requirements. This reinforces the sense that overall the certificate lacks a sense of coherence. Without clear coherence, committee members wondered if some students would complete the certificate without gathering the sustainability 'tool-box' attractive to employers. Committee members of both APCs agreed the proposal still lacks some core components, and would not vote on the proposal at this point. Committee members asked their feedback be shared with the proposers, with the goal of creating a strong, intellectually coherent certificate program that would benefit enrolled students.

Joint portion of the meeting adjourned.

L&S Only APC Meeting

1. Announcements and updates. (a) Arts Institute. KS updated committee members that the Arts Institute proposal is moving forward. Per L&S APC feedback, their council will be renamed the Advisory Committee, and any curricular issues involving any L&S departments must go through the L&S Curriculum Committee and/or APC. The Provost also promised talking points to discuss the Arts Institute with constituents. (b) Climate Committee Report. Tabled to a future meeting.

2. Meeting notes. Meeting notes for 9/17/2013 and 10/01/2013 were approved by members that attended those meetings, with a correction to 9/17/2013 attendance (corrections: DG attended, SW was absent, spelling correction for AG)

3. Academic Program Actions. (a) Request for Approval: Notice of Intent to Create New Undergraduate Major in Neurobiology (second discussion). EW reported the proposal has letters of support from key departments, including Psychology, Zoology, and Neuroscience department in SMPH. Once the Biology major committee forms, it will also review the proposal. During discussion, a committee member wondered if this start to hollow out the Biology major. Biology guests noted the option currently enrolls 300 students; it is large enough to operate on its own. New ideas for neurobiology curriculum and courses are being constrained to what fits under the Biology major. Operating as its own major should also give the program a new voice to ask for resources from alumni or the community. Another member noted that Biology was originally intended to be a holding area for students who might choose more specific pathways within biology; creating this major fits with that intention. JH noted a L&S CC concern - what happens to the neurobiology option students who don't opt in to the new major, and if other departments will continue to serve the major though they are no longer involved in administering it. Members unanimously approved the Notice of Intent to create a new L&S undergraduate major in neurobiology, pending receipt of letter of support from the Biology major program committee.

(b) Request for Approval: Suspend Admission to International Studies Major, "Global Commons / Global Environment" option. EMK provided an overview. L&S Admin became aware that the International Studies program had stopped admitting students to the Global Commons / Global Environment option until they address overlap concerns with the Environmental Studies major. However, they did not consult with APC for approval, and therefore admissions had not been officially suspended (nor has the *Undergraduate Catalog* been updated). Members unanimously approved the request to suspend admissions to International Studies "Global Commons / Global Environment" option.

4. Discussion: Graduate School Policy Revisions. KS provided an overview. The HLC has revised criteria for graduate-level education and we should be compliant in Fall 2014. Master's degrees must require a minimum of 30 credits completed after the bachelor's degree, with at least 50% of degree credit in graduate-level courses. KS noted that while most master's programs currently meet the revised criteria, it will effectively end the practice of awarding masters degrees to students who leave a PhD program after one year. Also driven by the HLC changes, the GFEC approved related policy changes in minimums grad degree credit, residence credit minimums, prior course work, and maximum credits per term. Discussion among committee members stressed that in this time of restricted resources, faculty rely on curricular flexibility, and the ability to teach undergraduates and graduates together. They discussed how they ensure graduates are receiving graduate education when they are in a course that includes undergraduates. Members appreciated the need to define levels of education to show compliance, and that the 50% level will give many programs the flexibility they need; however they also wondered if the HLC will further refine their definition in the near future, and make the work we put in now either out of date or unnecessary. Finally, committee members noted that while most departments will be compliant or nearly so, the review will still take substantial effort and careful intention to document it.

2:38 Meeting adjourned.

Notes submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, Curricular Administration Specialist.