

Meeting Notes – approved 2/4/2014

College of Letters and Science Academic Planning Council

Tuesday, December 17, 2013, 1:00-2:30 pm, 101 South Hall

Present at meeting

Chair: John Karl Scholz, Dean

L&S Members present: Harry Brighthouse, Jan Edwards, Clark Johnson, Anna Gemrich, John Hawks, Matt Turner, Betty Harwood, Jennifer Noyes

Absent Members: Diane Gooding, Tom Broman

L&S Observers present: Eric Wilcots, Sue Zaeske, Kimbrin Cornelius, Anne Gunther, Maria Cancian, Elaine Klein, Susan Ellis-Weismer, Nancy Westphal-Johnson, Gery Essenmacher, DeVon Wilson

1. Announcements. No announcements.

2. Approval of notes. 12/03/2013 meeting notes approved.

3. Request to Reorganize Academic Programs: Geoscience: Discontinue PhD minor in Geophysics (#472), rename PhD minor in Geology (#468) to "Geoscience." Members unanimously approved to discontinue the PhD minor in Geophysics and rename PhD minor in Geology.

4. Request for Comment. a. Notice of Intent to create a new MS in Biomedical Informatics (UW-Madison SMPH). Computer Sciences and Statistics both supported the proposal. EMK noted that this will likely come back to L&S APC once the curriculum has been flushed out. Members unanimously approved support for the proposal.

b. Notice of Intent: Proposed BS In Ecology, Environment and Conservation Biology (UW-Parkside). Committee members unanimous approved support for the proposal.

5. Academic Program Review: Certificate in Integrated Liberal Studies, & 6. Request to Restructure: Integrated Liberal Studies. *Guest: Mike VandenHeuvel, Director, ILS.* SZ led discussion and commended the review as an example of how a review can lead a program to move towards change. She noted that ILS review makes several important points, notably regarding (1) the steady decrease in enrollments (2) Retirement of key faculty; STS and emeritus faculty are frequently relied upon to teach the courses. (3) Individual faculty are teaching boutique courses, which leads to a lack of coherence and consistency in the curriculum (4) 'Interdisciplinary-ness' has greatly increased in recent years in L&S; both across in departments and with programs like FIGS and residence programs; and (5) Shared governance issues. Professor Michael VandenHeuvel described the program, both strengths and weaknesses, and answered committee members questions. MV said in the ILS program, students take the entirety of the L&S breadth requirements in an interdisciplinary and integrated way, instead of just taking elementary level courses across the campus. Students can look at content from different interdisciplinary perspectives; for example, students might learn about great writings in one course, and then learn about those in another course, from different perspectives. At the same time, MV said, student enrollments are dropping, and key retirements have not been replaced. These substantial changes have strained the program to the point that the faculty have requested permission to restructure.

Members agreed that the issues and potential solutions are complex, and would take up the issue for discussion again at a future meeting.

7. Consultations of the Dean: follow up on discussion of Academic Program Review. KS outlined a potential timeline for program reviews, where the Provost's Office is notified the program review has been completed once the L&S Academic Planning Council has received the self study. Member agreed to this timeline, and that it would encourage timely completion of required reviews, while also allowing departments to engage in a thorough self-study and carefully consider potential improvements.

Meeting notes submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, L&S Curriculum Administration Specialist