

L&S Academic Planning Council – Meeting notes approved 3/4/2014

Tuesday, February 18, 1:00-3:30 pm, 260 Bascom Hall

Present at meeting

Chair: John Karl Scholz, Dean

L&S Members present: Harry Brighthouse, Jan Edwards, Matt Turner, Betty Harwood, Jennifer Noyes, Diane Gooding, Tom Broman

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

Absent: Clark Johnson, Anna Gemrich, John Hawks,

JOINT SESSION (with Dean Kathryn VandenBosch, Chair, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences APC)

1. Announcements. KS and KV congratulated Rhodes Scholar (Drew Birrenkott) and L&S and CALS faculty receiving Research-Service Grants: Laura Hernandez (Dairy Sciences) and Jenell Johnson (Comm Arts). KS also congratulation Maria Cancian, who was nominated by President Barack Obama to serve as Assistant Secretary for Children and Families (Family Support) in the U.S. department of Health and Human Services.

2. Request for Comment: Proposal to Create a New Certificate in Nelson Institute Sustainability Certificate. Guest, Professor Eagan. KS reviewed concerns previously identified by L&S and CALS Academic Planning Councils and the proposal revisions to address them. The required number of credits was reduced from 19 to 12 to address concerns about time to degree; the list of courses was reduced to a much smaller core, to address concerns about program coherence and focus. In discussion, committee members continued to express concern that the course array does not seem to align with the proposal's "biological" definition of sustainability. Members suggested that either the definition or the course array could be revised to align the definition and the curriculum. Committee members also wondered how the certificate differed from the certificate or major in Environmental Studies, given that courses used meet requirements in all of these programs. Since the CALS committee did not receive the most current copy of the proposal, all committee members tabled further discussion until such time as all members could review that draft. Members also recommended that Professor Benson be invited to join the discussion to address any final questions.

3. Information Items: (a) Deans' Report to the Provost concerning progress made implementing changes to the Biology Major. KS and EW provided updates, including finding a new space, hiring advisors, and meetings of the Biology committees. **(b) Proposal to Consider Biology Core Curriculum Program as an "Honors" Program. EW led discussion.** Guests: Jeff Hardin (Director of Biocore), Sissel Schroeder (Director of L&S Honors), Janet Batzli (Biocore). EW led discussion. Biocore has essentially always been considered an honors program, yet it recently became clear it was not administratively considered one. This has led to the proposal to formally recognize Biocore as an honors program. JB noted the Biocore aligns with L&S Honors founding criteria –significant interaction with faculty, inquiry based learning, going deeply into a subject matter, allowing students to choose areas of depth learning, opportunity for independent study. SP noted CALS honors is a sustained research experience that doesn't necessarily involve coursework; CALS students can participate in Biocore but the course series won't also help CALS students meet the CALS honors requirements. L&S committee members unanimously approved the proposal to consider Biology Core Curriculum Program as an "Honors" Program, with transcription notation of "Biology Core Curriculum Honors" for students that meet the requirements of completing the program **c. Request to Discontinue the Community and Environmental Sociology MS program.** Guest Leann Tigges, Community and Environmental Sociology. KVB led

discussion. Sociology and C & E Sociology currently have a jointly held MS program. There is also a rarely used and redundant C & E Sociology MS program with identical requirements. LT assured committee members students will continue to have the option of being awarded the MS in Sociology. Committee members unanimously voted to support the proposal to discontinue the Community and Environmental Sociology MS program.

d. Proposal to Create a New Undergraduate Certificate in Development Economics. Guest, Laura Schechter, Agriculture & Applied Economics. LS noted that Ag & App Econ has historically been the home for most development economics courses offered, and that the L&S Economics department supports the proposal. The certificate would allow students the opportunity to explore the field of development economics, without having to complete a full major. KVB noted CALS and L&S Curriculum Committees support the proposal. Committee members unanimously moved to support the proposal to create a new Undergraduate Certificate in Development Economics, as proposed by the CALS Agriculture and Applied Economics.

SEPARATE SESSION

1. Notes from 4 February 2014 were approved by members present at that meeting

2. Action Items.c. Nelson Institute: Request to rename an existing program, the Master of Science in Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development, to "Master of Science in Environmental Conservation." (Carried over from previous meeting). KS led discussion. Committee members agreed that more information about the changes in the required prerequisites and the program's focus was needed so they could better understand the proposal. Members agreed to table the discussion until additional information was received.

3. Academic Program Review. (a) Bi-Weekly Update – KS noted progress is continuing in convening review. **(b) Certificate Program Review: Asian American Studies.** MC led discussion and review. The certificate is administered by Asian American Studies Program. It's administered by a single full time staff member, there are 14 faculty members who are currently teaching, and a large number of affiliated faculty. About 12 students complete the certificate annually, the majority of students are Hmong. And, L&S has hired a Hmong American Studies professor, Yang Sao Xiong, the first position of this kind in the country. Members agreed this is a strong program, and the new director seems to be strengthening it even more. Committee members unanimously accepted the report of the Asian American Studies Program and consider the review complete.

4. New Programs. (a) Center for the Humanities: Request to Create New Graduate Certificate in Public Humanities. SZ led discussion. UW is considered a national leader in this area; the certificate will provide a credential for activities that are already occurring (eg a Mellon an internship program, and courses already being taught). It will be administered by the Center of the Humanities, and will require core courses in public humanities, three courses thematically related to the student's field of study, and a capstone. In discussion, committee members wondered what courses can meet the thematic requirements? Or, what are the outcomes for the certificate with which the courses should align? Members also wanted more information about the governance process by which the faculty will make decisions about and guide administration of the program. Finally, EMK noted that rather than creating a new subject listing, listing the courses in Inter-D L&S would be more appropriate. Committee members tabled a vote until this additional requested information is required.

Meeting adjourned at 3:11 pm

Submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, L&S Administration