

College of Letters and Science Academic Planning Council (*approved 9/16/2014*)

Tuesday, May 6, 2014, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m., 101 South Hall (Dean's Conference Room)

Present at meeting

L&S APC members: Jan Edwards, Diane Gooding, Clark Johnson, Harry Brighthouse, Jennifer Noyes, Matt Turner, Tom Broman.

Absent: Betty Harwood, John Hawks

Observers: Elaine Klein, Devon Wilson, Kimbrin Cornelius, Maria Cancian, Sue Zaeske, Eric Wilcots, Nancy Westphal Johnson, Susan Ellis Weismer.

1. Minutes approval – April 15, 2014. Minutes were approved by the members present at that meeting.

2. Academic Program Reviews.

a. Geography (BA/BS Geography, MS-Geography, PhD-Geography, BA/BS

Cartography and Geographic Information Systems, MS-Cartography and Geographic Information Systems, PhD-Cartography and Geographic Information Systems). MC led discussions. She highlighted strengths, including an improving climate and gender diversification of junior faculty. In discussion, members expressed support of the efforts undertaken by the advisor, and encouraged the department to think about they could collaborate with other departments (like the Nelson institute). Members appreciated the honesty in identify areas to be improved, and encouraged the department to choose three or 4 challenges to focus on. Members voted to accept the report (one abstention, MT, Geography).

b. Psychology program review. MC led discussion. She noted that this unusual review was conducted as a 'dean's review' and the department was not required to convene a review committee, given the excellent status of the undergraduate program and the frequency of careful study of the programs by other bodies. She noted their undergraduate requirements are considered a model on campus, the undergraduate students are well-integrated into faculty research, and the department has a strong culture of assessment of learning outcomes. It was noted that the Graduate School would likely request committee review of the programs that do not fall under the purview of APA accreditation. In discussion, members advised the department to ensure they have a curriculum they can support with their current faculty numbers. Members voted to accept the report (one abstention, DG, Psychology).

c. Botany and Zoology (BA/BS). EW led discussion. He noted Botany and Zoology were asked to conduct their reviews together, to help the departments think about how to best coordinate their work and explore opportunities for more collaboration or even merger. The departments work effectively together on offering undergraduate introductory biology courses (151, 152) and key intermediate level courses, and they coordinate committee work. Challenges noted were flat enrollments overall (especially given the increase of Biology majors) and staffing Intermediate and 'non-major' classes, and facilities. The departments are considering a merger, they are also considering a new name for Zoology. Members wondered, how do students navigate the differences between biology programs? L&S APC members voted to accept the program review. Members also expressed support for Zoology's consideration concerning changing the department name (n.b. A proposal to change the department name would require a distinct proposal submitted for approval by the APC).

3. Request to Restructure Academic Programs

a. Theatre and Drama: Request to Revise Names of MA and PhD Programs in Theatre and Drama (to "Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies") and Relocate Program Administration to ITS Program Committee.

Guests: Mary Trotter, Ann Archbold (chair). SZ led discussion. SZ noted the department started this conversation, of separating faculty/programs of theatre & research from those of performing arts, prior to the College of the Arts proposals. AA noted the theatre & research faculty determined L&S was the best home for their program. The new faculty governance will allow more faculty to be involved in the program, and the new name (Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies) both better describes the program, and differentiates it from the MFA program. The curriculum is not changing as part of this request. AA also noted the five faculty in this area remain committed to the program as a priority. Committee members expressed concern about approving the request without knowing whether English will approve the decision to administratively support the program. SZ noted English is being cooperative, but also being very thoughtful regarding it. Members also wondered if the proposed budget was sufficient, and asked for a report back Fall 2014. Committee members unanimously approved (1) the proposal to rename the program and (2) to relocate program administration to the ITS Program Committee. Members requested an update on the relocation plan in Fall 2014.

b. Languages and Cultures of Asia. (i). Suspend admission to Academic Programs BA/BS, MA, PhD; and (ii). WITHDRAWN: Request for permission to plan department closure. Guest: Ellen Rafferty (chair). ER reported the department has been rapidly shrinking; three of the five remaining faculty have left for other departments. At this point, the department and programs need to close. She described the hope to rebuild a program in Trans-Asian studies. Committee members wondered how a potential loss of Title VI funding could affect a potential new program. ER agreed the loss of funds would be a grave concern. UW-Madison is highly regarded in providing LCTL needed for scholars across the university to pursue work where research is difficult without knowing the language. Regarding closure, ER reported the department had not yet taken a vote. Committee unanimously voted to suspend admission to Academic Programs BA/BS, MA, PhD and to convey that recommendation to the Provost as soon as possible. The APC will take up the request regarding closure after department has voted.

c. Hebrew and Semitic Studies: Request to Close Department. SZ provided an update on the department activities regarding restructuring/closing. Faculty, staff, and programs with students have moved to other departments, and space and funding issues have been addressed. Courses will be moved to new subject listings (Modern Hebrew, for example, will continue to be taught), the proposal to create new subject listings will be reviewed at this meeting as well. Committee unanimously voted to accept the plan to close the program, and to forward the plan to the Provost.

4. Request to change department name: Classics (to “Classical, Ancient & Near Eastern Studies”). Committee members unanimously approved the request to change the department name.

5. Request to reconfigure subject listings: Classics, Center for Jewish Studies, and Hebrew and Semitic Studies
a. Create “Hebrew – Biblical”; b. Create “Hebrew – Modern”; c. Delete “Hebrew” (440). Committee members unanimously approved the request to reconfigure subject listings.

6. Consultations of the Dean. a. Using Data to Make Decisions. KS reviewed Teaching Metrics presentation and data, as an example of the talk he has been giving to departments. The goal of the metrics is to provide information consistently and transparently across departments to help make decisions. In discussion, members noted that separating graduate and undergraduate courses would be helpful, as well as separating staff from faculty. Members wondered if these metrics cause unintended incentives (more staff or graduate student teaching, focus on large classes without focus on quality, etc). Members agreed with KS the message that issues/items beyond metrics are considered when making decisions should to be persistent.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, Curricular Administrative Specialist