

College of Letters and Science Academic Planning Council

Tuesday, October 7, 2014 (1:00 - 3:30 p.m.), 2321 DeLuca Biochemical Sciences Building

Chair, Kate VandenBosch (for CALS, joint portion of meeting), Karl Sholz (L&S)

L&S Members present: Diane Gooding, Matt Turner, Jennifer Noyes, Dan Kapust, Anna Gemrich, Angela Powell, Brian Heyer

Absent: Clark Johnson, Harry Brighthouse

L&S Observers: Elaine Klein, Greg Downey, Susan Ellis-Weismer, Nancy Westphal-Johnson, Eric Wilcots, James Montgomery, Nancy Westphal-Johnson, Kimbrin Cornelius

JOINT SESSION – Dean VandenBosch led discussion

1. Proposed Name Change: “Biological Aspects of Conservation” to “Conservation Biology.” EW led discussion. The name is out of date; this is now how the discipline is typically named. The committee unanimously approved the name change to “Conservation Biology.” (CALS APC also voted to endorse the name change.)

2. Biology Major Annual Report, 2013-2014. *Guests: Heidi Goodrich-Blair, Donna Fernandez, Kelley Harris-Johnson.* KHJ described work since the Biology major moved from ICBE to Zoology/Bacteriology. She noted the communication has been a major focus, moving the website, creating a newsletter, and thinking of ways students can build relationships with others in the major. Plans for this year include creating learning goals and building an assessment program, the planned relocation of the BIOLOGY subject listing to be administered through Zoology, and working with partner departments on course access issues. The program committee is also discussing a ‘biology core’ for all students in biological science majors. When members asked which issues are unique to Biology, they were told that course access presents a unique challenge, since the Biology Major Program Committee does not control the content of, or access to, courses required for the major. Both APCs congratulated the BMPC for the great advances they have made, and thanked them for their work.

3. Wisconsin Institute for Science Education and Community Engagement. *Guest, Janet Branchaw.* JS reported the major recommendations arising from a review of the Biology major and the Institute for Biology education were to (1) move the Biology major and courses into academic departments, and (2) broaden IBE outreach activities to include the natural sciences. Progress on both is underway, as evident from the prior report. IBE’s name change was approved by the UAPC last year, creating WISCIENCE, which will engage in outreach and professional development courses for science education. An executive committee will soon be convened by the Provost, and a large advisory committee with members from colleges and the community will also be created. JB invited nominations for members. Upon conclusion of this discussion, joint session was adjourned and each council convened separately.

L&S APC – Dean Scholz led discussion.

1. Announcements and updates on prior business. JKS led discussion. **(a) Faculty Senate approvals.** The three L&S items on faculty senate agenda were approved: Closing Hebrew & Semitic Studies, renaming Classics, and moving Theatre & Drama to Education. **(b). UW-Oshkosh Notice of Intent (BA-Art History):** No objections in L&S. **(c) Grad School (Learning Goals, Reorganization, Monitoring Committees)** The graduate school is defining learning goals, and has requested feedback. The goals will be reviewed by the L&S Curriculum Committee. The Vice Chancellor for Research has set up committees to monitor research facilities, centers, graduate school, conflict of interest, and governance.

2. Approval of notes, 16 September 2014. Unanimously approved by members present at that meeting.

3. Request to Change Name of Undergraduate Program: Biological Aspects of Conservation (BA/BS). *This item was presented and approved in joint session with CALS.*

4. Request to Delete Subject Listing: Industrial Relations. JKS reported that admission to the program were suspended in 2003, and the final student is expected to graduate in Spring 2015, so there is no

further need for this subject listing. Members unanimously approved the request to delete the Industrial Relations subject listing.

5. Academic Program Review: Afro-American Studies. GD led discussion, and briefly described the review. The number of graduates has declined significantly, from about 22 to 8 yearly. Their review indicates faculty resources as a primary concern, a concern often shared by small departments. Their assessment consists primarily of student evaluations. As part of this review process, some conversations about potential collaborations occurred between this department and other ethnic studies programs. In discussion, members noted that the program appears to be at a critical point where significant changes will be needed to keep the program vibrant and relevant. They questioned whether the proposed recommendations are likely to foster this kind of change. In particular, members noted that the addition of two faculty members seems unfeasible in light of impending budget reductions. They noted many small departments may struggle with finding the right balance in faculty research areas, and wondered if partnering with other ethnic studies programs could help with this issue. When considering course access and student composition in ESR courses, members observed that departments can control access to courses by using enrollment controls that give priority to first and second year students before allowing juniors/seniors to enroll. Finally, members expressed concern about the lack of cohesiveness in the certificate program, which cannot be encoded in DARS. Members accepted the self-study and committee report as completion of the formal program review, and charged the dean to communicate these observations and concerns to the department. The council requests a follow-up report addressing these concerns, to be submitted in one year (October 1, 2015).

5. Consultations of the Dean: Certificate Programs. JKS led discussion. He asked for feedback on setting standards for new certificates and continuing certificates. Coherence is required, for it to have pedagogical and intellectual benefits. Lack of coherence or attention creates considerable work for advising colleagues and degree audit. EMK noted the Registrar's Office has been given funds to maintain DARS and is working with departments to systematize processes for declaring, evaluating progress in, and completing certificates. Members' discussion about the role of certificates was broad: Should a certificate be a "mini-major" or like a minor? Should it be something distinct, outside of a major? Certificates can be a way to attract students into their department's courses/major (German), or they can alleviate pressure on large majors (Statistics). Members offered the following advice:

- Departments proposing certificates should submit 'market analysis' to project the number of likely declarers for new certificates, and how those new student might affect course/major enrollments.
- Departments should articulate how the program constitutes a unique learning experience. Related to this, certificate guidelines should help departments understand that these programs require intellectual coherence, and should not be overly broad.
- L&S should communicate with departments/programs an understanding of what a reasonable number of exceptions should be, with the understanding that exceptions should be rarely used to complete these programs. Should a program exceed this level, a review may be required to determine whether the program (1) is maintaining adequate course access/array, (2) should revise requirements and DARS coding, and/or (3) has sufficient intellectual coherence.
- If certificates are relatively easy to create, they should be equally easy to close. L&S should determine what enrollment thresholds should exist for certificates, and close low enrollment programs.

JKS thanked the council. EMK will integrate these suggestions into the guidelines for certificate program review, and will report back to the council at a later date.

Meeting adjourned 3:23 pm

Notes submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, L&S Administration.