

APC Brief Notes – approved May 5, 2015

April 21, 2015, 1:00-2:30 (Room 101 South Hall)

Chair: Karl Scholz

Members present: Jan Edwards, Matt Turner, Dan Kapust, Harry Brighthouse, Jennifer Noes, Anna Gemrich, Brian Hyer, Clark Johnson, Angela Powell, Diane Gooding

Observers: Greg Downey, Susan Ellis Weismer, Eric Wilcots, Nancy Westphal-Johnson, James Montgomery, Gery Essenmacher, Devon Wilson, Anne Gunther, Kimbrin Cornelius, Susan Zaeske, Elaine Klein

1. Announcements. KS reviewed the many awards L&S faculty and students have been awarded this year. He also noted the Grad Faculty committee approved the changes to the Comparative Literature and Folklore programs.

2. Approval of Notes April 7, 2015. An error was noted – Clark Johnson’s last name is wrong in the minutes, and in some previous accepted notes as well. As corrected, notes were approved by members who attended that meeting.

3. Academic Program Changes.

a. Slavic: Request to Create a New Undergraduate Certificate in East Central European Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (third reading). *Guests: Professors David Daneher and Toma Longinovic.* SZ led discussion. In the case of staffing cuts to the department, committee members wondered if the certificate can be sustained, and if creating this certificate obligates L&S or the department to continue offerings. They also wondered if the integrity of the certificate rests on a few instructors. These concerns are particularly relevant given today’s budget situation. DD and TM indicated the required courses are already being offered, there is a stable group of instructors in the area, and no retirements are slated soon. The language portion of the certificate is modular, so the certificate could continue if one language was cut (with two languages cut, perhaps not). Polish is the largest of the languages, and comes with a large endowment as well as a major. So Polish in particular will likely continue to be offered. Members also wondered how the certificate helps students gain unique outcomes, or be competitive for employment/graduate school. In response, DD and TM noted students can’t minor, or often even major in some of these areas, and could make helpful for students majoring in Political Science or Economics. The languages aren’t easy for native English speakers to learn, and additional coursework in culture and literature gives students a larger context for their learning. They also hope this will motivate more students to commit to learning the language. Members asked why the certificate includes several cultural/literature requirements when it seems students are most interested in the language courses. DD and TM responded it is very difficult to teach language separate from culture and literature, and these courses help students learn about the complex identities, conflicts etc. that are reflected in language. Lastly, members asked about many of the courses that seem to be small. DD and TM noted the importance of offering some large course enrollments to offset small courses. And,

some of the smaller courses are offered as “meets with” with another course. The motion to approve the certificate was passed. A majority of members approved, two members voted not to approve.

b. CANES: Request to Discontinue MA-Greek (G481), MA-Latin (G598). Members unanimously approved the request.

c. CANES: Request to close admissions to MA-Hebrew and Semitic Studies and Doctor of Philosophy, Hebrew and Semitic Studies (G497). Members unanimously approved the request.

4. Academic Program Review.

a. Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences. EW led discussion. The department is the founding home of satellite meteorology, participates in several interdisciplinary research centers, and does an excellent job of outreach, and have one of the top graduate programs in the country. They have a relatively small program. They are currently working their undergraduate learning outcomes and revising their assessment program. EW summarized some of their identified issues: Shrinking faculty size makes it difficult to offer the breadth of courses they intended to have, TA funding, connecting with potential majors earlier in their time at UW, and integrating the expertise in SSEC into the classroom and student learning. In conversation, members were sympathetic to the difficulties of approving academic staff to teach. NWJ noted per faculty legislation, PI’s must have approval to teach from the University Committee. KS noted he can potentially bring this up this issue at future campus meetings he attends. Committee members agreed that given the relatively small number of students they have, it will be difficult to sustain their current breadth of areas. The department may need to think strategically about which areas it can continue to offer. Members also noted in regards to the stated FIGS idea in the review—FIGS courses are small and instructor-intensive. Given the small number of majors the department has, offering a small course to attract potential majors may not be the best strategy for increasing enrollments. Members unanimously approved the motion to accept the report, and asked EW to convey the council’s discussion points back to the department.

b. Psychology (Graduate Programs). Members noted that the L&S review of graduate programs in Psychology had been previously completed (April 2014), and this was a supplemental review convened by the Graduate School. Members voted to accept the committee report and directed the Dean to convey it to the Graduate School without further comment.

5. Request to Rename, Relocate, and Revise Mission of an Institute

a. L&S/DIS: International Institute. Tabled until next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30

Notes submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, L&S Administration