

L&S Academic Planning Council Brief Notes

May 5, 2015, 2-3:30 pm, 101 South Hall – *approved 9/15/2015*

Chair: Karl Scholz

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

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

1. Announcements: KS thanked members who have completed their terms of the committee, Jennifer Noyes, Brian Hyer, and Dan Kapust, and announced next year's new members.

2. Consent Agenda (a). L&S Support for Slavic Recommendation that School of Education Discontinue BS-Education in Russian, Polish (department does not have capacity to support) (b). Request for L&S Support to Create New Option in MS-Engineering Professional Development (departments providing L&S courses concur) (c) Approval of notes – April 21, 2015. Members unanimously approved the consent agenda, with a correction to the notes: Diane Gooding was present at the April 21 meeting.

3. Request to Rename, Relocate, and Revise Mission of an Institute: L&S and Division of International Studies, International Institute (to, "Institute for Regional and International Studies"). GD led discussion. He summarized previous APC discussions and concerns. He noted initial uncertainties about the new division, including the proposed organization, Title VI funding, and having a new provost and chancellor. Much of that uncertainty has been resolved, and there is strong backing from the provost and chancellor. This final approval step will allow L&S to change how it interacts with the programs and institute. Hopefully the new organization will promote close coordination among units, and make the centers stronger. Many of them coordinated in this year's applications for Title IV funding, and were successful. GD noted that faculty and TAs will remain in L&S, and staff lines will be moved to IRIS. All programs will remain L&S ones, but IRIS will coordinate the day to day administration. MOUs have been created by L&S to keep the structure and governance lines clear. In discussion, members noted the proposal still does not contain budget information. KS noted that L&S is working on a budget MOU as well, with an emphasis on what would happen in the face of a Title VI cut. Members wondered what *would* happen in that case? GD noted funding cuts would be a struggle for L&S and campus regardless of where the units are. Hopefully this structure would allow them to address it strategically together, instead of thinking about it individually and in isolation. Members approved the request (JN opposed, DG abstained).

4. Request for Permission to Plan to Restructure

(a) East Asian Languages and Literature – Guest: Professor Rania Huntington, Chair. SZ led discussion. Colleagues from several departments have worked to re-envision how the university can support research and scholarship about Asia on campus. At the same time, there is a larger initiative under way to reevaluate how world culture and languages are organized on campus. In discussion, members asked about the number of students who would be by restructuring, the broad name "Asian Studies", and how this name might be inclusive of studies across L&S, beyond language, literature and cultural studies. SZ and EMK noted that the request for action was limited to granting permission to plan restructuring, and was not a request to change the name. Members unanimously approved the request for permission to plan to restructure the department.

b. Linguistics – Guest: Professor Eric Raimy, Chair SZ led discussion, noting that this very small department has an outside chair who has been working with a committee appointed to address a variety of concerns about the program and department. The chair summarized the request to restructure the department in a way that would address the very small size of the department, which has an effect on the ability to offer curriculum and to participate effectively in governance. Though they have tried to expand the list of faculty affiliates, they have not been successful in doing so. They have considered joining another department, but there is no clear department with which to merge. They are therefore considering restructuring into an interdisciplinary program, in which faculty from many departments would be contractually involved in governance, but would not move tenure lines. This would bring in additional faculty to participate in decision-making, provide a broader range of views/perspectives, and break up “log jams” on topics where progress has stalled because differences cannot be resolved. Some council members expressed concern about references to a proposed name for the program, since ‘Language Sciences’ was mentioned in one of the supporting documents; however, SZ and EMK clarified the proposal under council consideration does not include a request to rename the unit or to create a new program with that name. When the program is restructured, the new name will be brought to the APC for approval as part of the restructuring plan. Member unanimously approved the request for permission to plan to restructure this department.

5. Academic Program Review

(a) Chican@ and Latin@ Studies Certificate Program. GD led discussion, and started with some questions: What do we ask of certificate programs that live outside of a department? What students in particular do they serve? Who is the target population? In discussion, members noted that the CLS program clearly provides support and community to students who identify as Chican@ or Latin@, and should be commended for that important work. The pedagogical value of the certificate was not as clearly articulated, nor was there any description on how the program might find ways to improve how it is meeting that aspect of its academic mission. Members were also concerned about the number of exceptions requested for students to complete the program, since a high number of exceptions calls into question the intellectual coherence of small programs. Finally, members noted that the program mission includes service to students across campus, but this was not addressed in wondered how the program and courses serve students across campus. Members unanimously accepted the review, and approved continuation of the certification. However, they asked their discussion and feedback be shared with the program, and requested another program review in three years.

(b) Applied Math, Engineering and Physics. EW led discussion. This is a rigorous program that combines Math (Calculus), Physics, and Engineering courses, with an “applied” focus. It has a strong core of faculty, and dedicated alumni. This year, the requirements were programmed into DARS (previously, students were completed with about 70% exceptions). Council members supported the review committee’s recommendation that the program work on articulating learning outcomes and conducting program assessment of learning in those outcomes, continuing to regularize their curricular requirements, and addressing gaps in administrative support . Members unanimously accepted the review.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm

Notes submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, L&S Administration