

BRIEF NOTES

Letters and Science Academic Planning Council

January 20, 2015, 1-2:30 pm, 101 South Hall

Approved February 3, 2015

Chair: Karl Scholz

Members Present: Angela Powell, Brian Heyer, Clark Johnson, Jennifer Noyes, Anna Gemrich, Diane Gooding, Matthew Turner, Jan Edwards

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

Members Absent: Dan Kapust, Harry Brighthouse

1. Announcements. KS was pleased to report a new FIGS Director, Nathan Phelps, was selected.

2. Approval of notes – December 2, 2014. Approved by voting members present at the meeting.

3. Report on Request for Comment Submitted During Intersession (a) Proposed MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (UW-Parkside) and (b) Proposed online collaborative MS-Data Science at several UW institutions. DG commented that perhaps the MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling should include an Abnormal Psychology course. KS noted L&S submitted Statistics' comments. Statistics recognizes the demand for this type of program is very high and thus doesn't anticipate a significant overlap of potential students.

4. Request for Permission to Restructure: Proposed Department of Northern European Studies (Departments of German, Scandinavian Studies, and Slavic) *Guests: Professors Vanderwal-Taylor, Wolf, Evans-Romaine have been invited to represent their departments' views.* SZ led discussion. She noted the departments have been discussing some type of restructuring for years. The current effort is taking place before World Languages discussion are complete, and the proposed restructuring will need to fit within that context as well. Advantages of combining departments include better shared governance, streamlining of classified staff responsibilities, and capitalizing on natural overlap in the disciplines. Nationally, Scandinavian Studies is often in German Departments. KE noted one of Slavic's reservations, which is losing the ability to attract top graduate students/faculty. This could result from losing identity or from outside perceptions that restructuring may mean significant trouble in a department. Yet Slavic also sees the benefits of restructuring for faculty governance and can imagine new intellectual synergies. KW noted a Scandinavian Studies concern of losing identity and power from merging with a larger department, and has seen an example where such a merger did not work well for Scandinavian Studies. Slavic Studies also joining attenuates this concern. JT noted that German currently contains many disciplines (using the example of Dutch), and anticipates an environment that would welcome Slavic and Scandinavian Studies keeping strong identities. KE mentioned Berkley Slavic department has strong public identity and outsiders can't easily see they are part of another department. Slavic hopes a restructuring would be managed in a similarly low profile way. Both KE and KW spoke to concerns about how restructuring could affect fundraising. Maintaining strong separate identities is important to fundraising, as well as how the restructuring is communicated to the public. In discussion, members

wondered if a July goal was realistic. KW noted a classified staff departure makes July timing ideal. AG mentioned July 1 is a helpful fiscal date to change, but this isn't required. EMK noted a soft roll out is also a possibility if needed. Members wondered how students will experience the restructuring. KE noted that students usually identify with programs, not departments, so the student experience shouldn't change. Members encouraged the departments to include academic staff and classified staff in the planning process, and KE and KW reported that classified staff are already been working together in how their responsibilities could be restructured. SZ said that L&S can help departments with branding. She also noted that the proposal asks for compensation for a chair in each department; given today's budget that is not likely. A motion to approve the request to plan restructuring was approved unanimously.

5. Academic Program Review. (a.) Certificate in Mathematics. EW led discussion. He reported overall, the program is popular and doing well. Currently, 90 students with senior status are in the program from across campus and the college. Program outcomes are articulated, but they do still need some work on an assessment plan. In discussion, members mentioned the high number of credits (25). The calculus sequence takes a significant number of credits and may be used towards requirements. Members agreed this was a reasonable approach; requiring less credits would likely have an accompanying change of moving calculus to a prerequisite. A motion to accept the program review was approved unanimously. **(b.) TESOL certificate review.** SZ led discussion This is a second review; the Graduate School didn't accept the first report due to no external review (not required by L&S for certificates). They are continuing to work on program goals and assessment plan, as well as working on communication materials. In discussion members noted the prerequisites to the certificate seemed to make it available to only to students who had undergraduate English majors. They wondered if this would limit the program's ability to grow, and that graduate students outside English could potentially be interested in the certificate as well. Members also recognized the prerequisites may be intended to limit capacity. A motion to accept the report was approved. One member voted not to accept the report, with the remaining voting to accept. **(c.) Art History (First Discussion).** Due to lack of time, this review was postponed to the next APC meeting.

6. Consultations of the Dean. (a) Looking Ahead (Spring 2015 and Beyond). KS announced the Career Initiative Course, taught by Assoc Dean Greg Downey, starts today with about 250 students. Looking ahead, he noted the expected headwinds we will be facing with the release of the state budget proposal on February 3rd. Restructuring, especially in the Humanities, will continue.

Meeting adjourned 2:32

Notes submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, Curriculum Administration Specialist