

L&S APC Brief Notes – approved by L&S APC, March 3, 2015

Tuesday, February 17, 2015. 1-2:30 pm, 260 Bascom

L&S Chair: Karl Scholz

L&S members present: Clark Johnson, Dan Kapust, Harry Brighthouse, Angela Powell, Jennifer Noyes, Brian Hyer, Diane Gooding, Anna Gemrich, Matt Turner

L&S observers: Susan Zaeske, Elaine Klein, Eric Wilcots, Devon Wilson, James Montgomery, Kimbrin Cornelius, Greg Downey, Gery Essenmacher, Anne Gunther, Nancy Westphal-Johnson

JOINT SESSION

1. Introductions, Announcements, Remarks for the Deans.

2. Subject Listing Change: Biology Major Program Committee, Proposal to relocate Biology (265)

Subject listing from WISCIENCE to Zoology. *Guests: Professor Fernandez, Professor Goodrich-Blair, Professor Hardin, Kelley Harris-Johnson, Nazan Gille.* KJ reported the proposal completes the last element of the Biology major moving to CALS and L&S. Criteria have been established to ensure the course array is carefully maintained, and connected to Biology major requirements and opportunities. A proposal is also being drafted to create a new subject listing in the School of Education for the courses that don't fit the criteria. NG reported Zoology is already coordinating the administrative effort for scheduling courses in practice. In discussion, DK reported the L&S Curriculum Committee enthusiastically supports the proposal. The request to move the subject listing from WISCIENCE to Zoology was unanimously approved.

3. Academic Program change. Request: Zoology, Request for Permission to Implement New

Undergraduate Major in Neurobiology (First Reading). *Guests: Professor Johnson, Professor Hardin, Professor Postle.* EW led discussion. The proposal is to create a major in Neurobiology, and phase out the existing Neurobiology Option in the Biology major. The program will be housed in Zoology; two of the foundational courses are Zoology courses, and several faculty focus in this area. SJ noted students believe a major will more transparently communicate to graduate schools and employers what they have studied. The undergraduate neuroscience courses available on campus have expanded beyond those that can meet Biology major requirements (eg mind-brain education, imaging, bioinformatics). HG noted the neurobiology curriculum has been moving away from the Biology major, making it difficult to evaluate which courses should meet requirements. SP noted this will reduce the number of CALS degree home students, however most of the required coursework is in L&S, an L&S home makes sense. In discussion, DK noted L&S Curriculum Committee supported the proposal, and with the understanding some additional implementation work must be done. Members wondered about the rationale to label the program Neurobiology instead of Neuroscience. SJ reported it was to keep distinct the undergraduate program from SMPH program. EMK also noted a name change at this point would require a new Notice of Intent. DG reported that Psychology is strongly supportive of the new program, and is making plans to accommodate the additional students. Members wondered about overlap between majors. SJ responded that at this point, because the foundational courses are so similar, a Biology/Neurobiology double major would not be allowed. Members unanimously approved the request for permission to implement a new undergraduate major in Neurobiology, contingent on addressing the issues identified in the proposal.

L&S ONLY SESSION

4. Approval of Notes, February 3, 2015. SZ requested a correction to 2c. A comment in the minutes was attributed to her in error; it should have been attributed to the department's written response to the external review. The notes were approved as amended by all those present at that meeting.

5. Academic Program Review (a) History of Science (Second Discussion). SZ briefly summarized discussion points from last meeting: This area drives enrollments from STEM students into History and other humanities courses; joining with History seems the only viable option; and connecting with the Holtz Center doesn't solve the size issue. Since the last APC meeting, the History chair met with faculty in HOS; the History chair is bringing it to their faculty advisory council. In discussion, members reiterated a merger with History is the only viable option. Members wondered if all faculty would move together. SZ noted only L&S faculty are likely to move, and each faculty member would have their credentials and research evaluated by the History department. Members asked about non-tenured faculty, and provided advice to make a plan that ensures the most appropriate individuals are on their committees. The motion to accept the report as complete was unanimously approved by members. A motion also unanimously approved by members: Based on the information provided to the APC, the APC would urge History of Science and History to proceed expeditiously to engage in open, candid discussion of how best to integrate History of Science into the History department. These discussions should culminate in a plan and perhaps a request to restructure, on or before November 1, 2015.

(b) Religious Studies. SZ led discussion. They are doing an excellent job reaching out to other departments, and finding ways to complement students' curriculum. They have revised the certificate requirements to make the program clearer and easier to complete. In discussion, members noted assessment efforts are missing from the review. The justification seems to be circular (we need this certificate because students are taking it), instead of based on the outcomes and pedagogical goals of the program, with assessment to see if students are meeting those goals. Members asked about the increase in certificate enrollments, SZ noted they have a new proactive associate director, and because of her increases will likely continue. Members agreed the report was too superficial, and addressing assessment was essential. Members asked that program provide a report with a clearer statement about the need, values, and outcomes for the certificate, and how they know they are being successful. SZ will provide this feedback to their faculty. The motion to not accept the report, and instead to request a substantial revision was approved unanimously by members. Members also agreed the council should have a conversation, separate from particular certificate reviews, about certificate issues that have come up during review conversations.

6. Request to Change Name, "Center for the Study of Politics" to "Elections Research Center." The request for the name change to "Elections Research Center" was unanimously approved by members.

7. Consultations of the Deans. KS updated committee members on the proposed state budget cuts, and the likely L&S percentage, as well as the short and long-term strategies with dealing with the cuts. KS asked members to keep him updated when they see this being discussed in the media. In conversation members discussed how to continue being supportive of junior faculty, and how to talk about the cuts with undergraduate students, graduate students, and junior and midcareer faculty.

Notes submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, L&S Administration