

Letters and Science Academic Planning Council Notes (approved 12/1/15)

Tuesday, November 17, 2015, 1-3:30 1220AB DeLuca Biochemical Sciences Building, 440 Henry Mall

Chair: Karl Scholz

Members present: Clark Landis, Charles Fry, Ivy Corfis, Steven Kantrowicz, Harry Brighthouse, Matt Turner, Anna Gemrich, Angela Powell Members absent: Jan Edwards

Observers present: Greg Downey, James Montgomery, Wren Singer, Kimbrin Cornelius, Nancy Westphal-Johnson, Eric Wilcots, Anne Gunther, Susan Ellis Weismer, Sue Zaeske

Joint L&S and CALS portion of the meeting:

1. Announcements: (None).

2. Academic Program Review: Graduate Programs in Sociology. GD led discussion. He noted the program is top-ranked nationally, and is a model example of a cross-college shared program. The program is interdisciplinary, because it contains many different subfields that can be quite different in focus. The intent of the program is to create both a common experience for students as well as opportunities for them to focus in a particular area. They guarantee 5 years of support to all students, and limit the number of admitted students to the number they can guarantee. In terms of the program review recommendations, they have already started addressing some of the suggestions (such as creating a Graduate Handbook). The review committee also identified areas in which perhaps students would be better served by creating common expectations/practices across subfields. In conversation, committee members noted that community can be difficult to maintain in large programs, but it can be exacerbated by lack of uniformity in terms of policies or exams. Members reinforced the review committee's advice to the program to continue to discussing these issues. They also noted to address time to degree, they may need to look at issues such as when students typically start dissertation work. Finally, members agreed the program is very strong, and the self-study and review were thorough and complete. Members were inclined to accept the report as complete; however, action will be deferred until the next meeting.

3. Request for Comment: Campus Policy on Named Options. EMK led discussion. She noted that although a campus policy is only now being articulated, the drafted policy aligns with principles L&S programs and departments have been using for years. Committee members had a question about a section that indicates tracks will be transitioned into Options. They suggested it not be articulated so specifically in the policy if there is no immediate plan to transition tracks. Otherwise, committee members agreed they did not have any concerns with the draft policy.

L&S-only portion of the meeting:

1. Approval of Notes – November 3, 2015. Notes approved by members who attended that meeting.

2. Academic Department Restructuring (Part 1). (a) Create New Academic Department: Department of Asian Languages and Cultures from the Departments of East Asian Languages and Literature and Languages and Cultures of Asia. *Department Representatives: Professors Rania Huntington (Chair, EALL); Ellen Rafferty (Chair, LCA); Junko Mori (Chair, Asian Studies Restructuring Implementation Committee); John Dunne (EALL).*

SZ led discussion, and thanked the faculty for the great amount of work, effort and cooperation that has led to re-thinking about the teaching and research in Asian Studies at UW. This request addresses the structures of the departments, the next step will be address the curriculum. JM noted these changes are prompted by two main issues – (1) that the study of Asia and regions has changed, prompting faculty to

rethink how they approach education and research; and (2) At the same time, internally the departments faced challenges as operating as small units. Committee members had questions about how Central Asia and Middle East would fit into the Asian Studies or other departments. AP noted titles of some staff were not correct in the proposal. AP also expressed concern that current university staff will not be guaranteed the opportunity to continue in their current positions in the new department. SZ explained that the new department must be staffed to meet the needs of the newly combined department, which will serve more students with more programs, courses, and staff than are found in either of the two current units; per advice of university and college Human Resources, new positions relative to the new structure will be created, and current staff may apply for those positions. Members unanimously approved the request to create a new Department of Asian Languages and Cultures from the Departments of East Asian Languages and Literature and Languages and Cultures of Asia.

3. Request to Change Department Name: from Department of African Languages and Literature to Department of African Cultural Studies *Department Representatives: Professors Jo Ellen Fair (ALL); Damon Sajjani (ALL)*

JEF summarized the department has been changing the focus of their curriculum, to match the changes in the discipline. It is expanding beyond literature, into other areas like media studies, oral traditions, cinema, new social media, etc. The proposed name change reflects the changing focus of the program. Committee members wondered if the word “languages” should still be in the department name. JEF replied that this issue was considered, but the department ultimately decided that since culture cannot be taught without language, the name should be clear to students and other audiences. Members unanimously approved the request to rename the Department of African languages and Literature to the Department of African Cultural Studies.

4. Academic Department Restructuring (Part 2) a. Create New Academic Department: Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic from the Departments of German, of Scandinavian Studies, and Slavic Languages and Literature *Department Representatives: Professors Julie Allen (Chair, Scan Studies); Karen Evans-Romaine (Chair, Slavic Languages and Literature); Jolanda Vanderwal Taylor (Chair, German)*

KER led discussion. She noted through the restructuring process the departments have explored the many natural intersections between the departments. Intellectually, there are opportunities for collaboration, such as jointly teaching foreign language pedagogy. Another possibility is a joint proseminar for graduate students that focuses on points in common to all of the programs, e.g. professional associations, literary and critical theory, and folklore. Administratively, the new department would benefit from a joint structure. At the same time, the department will continue to be represented by separate disciplines. Joint hires are not common across these programs, and graduate students will not be applying to the same positions. Overall, the intent was to create governance structures that keeps many decisions central, but preserves the expertise of the separate disciplines as much as possible. AP expressed concern that current university staff will not be guaranteed the opportunity to continue in their current positions in the new department. SZ explained that the new unit will be staffed in a manner consistent with a larger department that will serve more students with more programs, courses, and staff than are found in any of the three current units; on the advice of Human Resources, new positions consistent with the new structure will be created, and current staff may apply for those positions. Members unanimously approved the request to create New Academic Department: Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic from the Departments of German, of Scandinavian Studies, and Slavic Languages and Literature

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Notes submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, L&S Administration