

Letters and Science Academic Planning Council

December 1, 2015, 1:00 – 2:30 pm, 101 South Hall – approved January 19, 2016

Chair: Karl Scholz

Members present: Angela Powell, Ivy Corfis, Stephen Kantrowitz, Harry Brighthouse, Matt Turner, Charlie Fry, Jan Edwards, Katherine Bowie, Anna Gemrich

Members absent: Clark Landis

Observers present: Greg Downey, James Montgomery, Nancy Westphal-Johnson, Sue Zaeske, Elaine Klein, Kimbrin Cornelius, Wren Singer, Susan Ellis-Weismer

1. Announcements – KS announced recent student and faculty awards.

2. Consent agenda. **a. Approval of notes – November 17, 2015** AP noted her comments about staff job security were not include in the notes of discussion of the two proposed department restructurings. The notes will be amended to include those. **c. Request to Suspend Admissions, Discontinue Named Option: Biology Major, “Neurobiology” Option d. Request to Discontinue Named Option: International Studies Major, “Global Commons/Global Environment” Option e. Notice of suspension of program tracks: School of Music, Music Graduate Programs (G687) “Ethnomusicology.”** With the amendment to the notes, committee members approved the consent agenda.

b. Request for Comment – UW-Madison Department of Education Policy Studies, Notice of Intent to offer new program: Bachelor of Science Education Studies, major “Education Studies.” This was removed from the consent agenda. A summary of member discussion points were:

- Will an undergraduate education policy major qualify students for the listed careers? If not, will students understand that? Is this also intended to provide an alternate route to teaching? If so, that should be clearer.
- Some language in the proposal seems to indicate the policy focus may be quite broad. This was also a concern of LaFollete; clarification would be helpful.
- L&S should explore the possibility of allowing L&S academic home students to declare the major.
- EPS and LaFollette should be encouraged to collaborate, especially with course offerings.

3. Academic Program Review. (a) Follow up to review: Art History to APC request. SZ noted the Art History response represents direct attention and action to APC feedback, including updating the course array and addressing scheduling issues. Committee members were impressed. They agreed the department considered the feedback carefully and have taken concrete steps to address issues. Members’ remaining concern was regarding time-to-degree. They were pleased to see the department taking direct steps to decrease it. However, they were not convinced by the argument that Art History students may uniquely have a longer time-to degree, since these students often require substantial foreign language study to complement the work they conduct in their subfields.

(b) Sociology: Memo to Community & Environmental Sociology and Sociology completing program review (draft date: 11/25/2015). Members were provided with the draft memo response to the Sociology program review. Committee members were supportive of the memo, and approved the motion to accept the program review as complete.

4. Less-Commonly Taught Language Sharing a. CIC Course Share. KS led discussion. Instruction of less-commonly taught languages is indispensable, but offering them is challenging because so few students enroll in any given course. CIC Course Share allows course partnership and consolidated enrollments

across universities. Students enroll at their home institution regardless of where the course is offered, and pay tuition to their home school. While there are many issues to work through—Registrars have to allow course access to students at their home institution, terms may not align, course offerings aren't always planned well in advance—sharing courses has successfully created combined enrollments that allow for the continuing instruction of these languages.

b. Beyond the CIC: Proposal for Southeast Asian LCTLs Distance Language Exchange. Some languages are not taught in Course Share, e.g. Khmer and Burmese. L&S has informally shared courses with some universities in a model similar to Course Share. To continue this more formally, a MOU and formal process documents were drafted. They have been reviewed and vetted by campus partners and other institutions. In conversation, members were surprised an institution would need to teach a scheduled course even if none of their students were enrolled, and wondered about potential lost tuition revenue. Members agreed, however, the proposed model and process are necessary to create opportunities for stable, cooperative course sharing. They also noted the importance of having less-commonly taught languages available for Madison students. The council endorsed the principle of using a standard practice such as the template for sharing languages with non-CIC institutions.

5. Consultations of the Dean: Program Review Questions. KS and EMK asked for feedback on updated draft L&S Guidelines for Program Review, and an updated Self Study Narrative template. The inspiration for the updates and template comes from EMK interviews with associate deans, former APC members, and departments about how the program review process can be most productive for departments and L&S. Members agreed the updates will much better prompt departments to address the issues APC would expect. Additional feedback included

- Encourage departments more explicitly to look at issues such as achievement gap or diversity.
- Offer (if possible) examples of excellent self-studies (examples that are candid may be most helpful).
- Include information about how GFEC members participate on review committees.
- Provide examples to help departments understand how to focus on academic programs vs. department operations or research mission.
- With respect to data required or requested: Graduate program reviews should (if possible) include job placement information, attrition (including when students leave). In some undergraduate programs where job placement is well understood, that might also be included; however, such placement data is very difficult to obtain at the undergraduate level.

Member adjourned at 2:30 pm

Notes submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, L&S Administration