

Letters and Science Academic Planning Council

Tuesday, January 19, 2016, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m., 101 South Hall – *approved February 3, 2016*

Chair: Karl Scholz

Members present: Clark Landis, Charles Fry, Ivy Corfis, Steven Kantrowitz, Harry Brighthouse, Matt Turner, Anna Gemrich, Angela Powell, Katherine Bowie

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, Elaine Klein

1. Announcements and Updates Dean Scholz noted that **(a)** the Provost has signed an arrangement that will allow Madison College students access to UW-Madison Study Abroad programs, in the **Global Studies Passport MOU between UW-Madison and Madison College**; the council had previously reviewed a proposed campus **(b) Policy on Named Options**, which has been revised to address concerns raised in that review; and **(c)** the **University APC approved all L&S actions requested** in the last series of meetings, most of which concerned name changes and reorganization of L&S departments.

2. Consent Agenda (a). Approval of notes – December 1, 2015 (b). Requests for Comment on Notices of Intent to plan new UW System programs: (i.) MS/PHD Atmospheric Science (UW-Milwaukee) (ii.) MS Applied Statistics (UW-LaCrosse) Members approved the consent agenda, with a request that advice from Atmospheric and Oceanic Science about the UWM program should be forwarded to the Provost.

3. Request for Comment, UW-Madison programs: (a) NOI – UW-Madison, MS/PhD in Biomedical Data Science (BioMedical Informatics, School of Medicine & Public Health). EW noted the narrow program focus aligns with goals of Medical School and avoids overlap with other statistics programs. Members noted that it would be helpful if the proposal clarified what aspects of the program are new to the array of programs offered in “Big Data.” Members approved a recommendation to support the program (b) Old Business: NOI - UW-Madison. Bachelor of Science Education Studies, major “Education Studies” (REVISED) (Education Policy Studies, School of Education). KS noted the revisions were to address APC questions from the first review. It requests a School of Education major and degree, and does not rely heavily on L&S courses. The program may someday evolve to a free-standing major L&S students could complete, but that will not happen until changes to degree structures afford it. Members approved a recommendation that L&S support creation of the Bachelor of Science Education Studies, major, “Education Studies.”

4. Academic Program Change: Undergraduate Certificate on Aging (School of Medicine and Public Health). Request to transfer of program from SMPH to L&S (Psychology). GD led discussion. The current interdisciplinary “Specialist in Gerontology Certificate” program, housed in the SMPH/Grad School Institute on Aging, is intended to serve undergraduates with a variety of majors. The move is prompted by the fact that the two academic units associated with IoA do not serve undergraduates. IoA has staff to serve student and administrative needs, and this support will continue. Psychology will assume responsibility as the departmental academic home, and will be the administrative point of contact with IoA and the program. In preparation for the move to L&S, certificate requirements will be updated and aligned with campus and college policies. During conversation, APC members expressed several concerns, but generally agreed these could be resolved in short order with focused attention: The program is not encoded in DARS; program requirements include topics courses and will likely call for program exceptions contrary to campus certificate guidelines; and the assessment plan needs to be revised to address program-level assessment rather than relying on standard course grades over a wide

array of courses. Suspending admission will not be necessary if these issues are resolved in a timely way. Members approved a motion that:

1. *The Undergraduate Certificate in Aging may be transferred from the School of Medicine and Public Health to the College of Letters & Science, providing that:*
 - a. *Program faculty work with the L&S (Curriculum Committee, Academic Information Management) to articulate requirements aligned with campus policy and college best practices;*
 - b. *Program requirements are encoded in DARS and students use the e-declaration process; and*
 - c. *The assessment plan is revised to reflect how student achievement of program learning goals is evaluated.*
2. *The Undergraduate Certificate in Aging will submit a progress report to the Dean two years after the transition.*
3. *Consistent with procedures for approval of new certificate programs, the program will be formally reviewed five years after the transition.*

5. Academic Program Restructuring: Request for Permission to Plan Merger of the Department of History and the Department of History of Science *Guests: Florence Hsia, Professor and Chair, History of Science; James Sweet, Professor and Chair, History* SZ led discussion, reminding council of the recent reviews of the academic programs in History and in History of Science, which are all excellent programs. Unfortunately, the smaller department faces challenges stemming from its size: with a highly active research faculty, several members may be on leave at any given time, resulting in difficulty identifying a chair and performing essential departmental service. In addition, L&S has found that departments with a single staff member have difficulty performing all of the specialized duties needed to support departments. April 8, 2014 SZ met with chairs to ask them to consider a merger. After engaging in these discussions, the departments have come to agreement and have started to develop a plan and to work through various questions related to governance and to the graduate and undergraduate programs. In the request before the council, they are seeking permission to develop a formal proposal to merge. Following the chairs' brief presentation of the request, APC members asked about provision for faculty from the SMPH department of Medical History and Bioethics who are connected to History of Science. JS and FM reported that History will welcome these faculty, but questions about affiliation as governance, affiliate, or executive committee faculty need still to be resolved. Both chairs are confident this will happen. Council members asked about how merger may affect graduate program admissions and the visibility and "brand" of the programs. JS and FM agreed the merger should make admissions stronger for both programs, and that the programs will be stronger due to increased collaboration among students and faculty in the department. FM noted some members of History of Science seem concerned about how graduate students will find the History of Science programs; however, the programs will maintain their distinct branding and reputation. As planning proceeds, the department will need to communicate clearly with stakeholders about the change. SZ observed that History will have a new chair and several senior faculty on leave next year, and expressed hope that planning will be completed this term. Committee members approved (SK abstaining) a motion to grant permission to plan, asking for documents to be submitted no later than March 31.

6. Consultations of the Dean. KS noted L&S will be articulating our aspirations for L&S students, and APC will have the opportunity to reflect on a draft. Also, some senior APC members will be asked to participate in a review of the APC.

The meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

Submitted by
Kimbrin Cornelius, Curricular Administrative Specialist