

**Letters and Science Academic Planning Council – approved 3/15/2016**  
**Tuesday, March 1, 2016, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m., 260 Bascom Hall**

Chair: Karl Scholz

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

Members absent: Steven Kantrowitz, Clark Landis, Jan Edwards,

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

*The APC convened in joint session with the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Academic Planning Council. Per Faculty Policies and Procedures 3.08, each dean led discussion of her and his college council, and action on items presented for a vote were voted on by each council.*

**1. Deans' Welcome and Introductions**

**2. Announcements.** JKS noted that Academic Planning and Institutional Research had updated a number of resources to share data on academic programs; links to academic program information can be found at <http://apir.wisc.edu/students.htm>.

**3. Request for Comment: School of Education (WISCIENCE) Request to Create New Subject Listing, "Integrated Science"** *Guests: Associate Dean Jeff Hamm, Professor Janet Branchaw* SP provide an

overview. After the move of the Biology subject listing to its new administrative home in Zoology, criteria for course inclusion in the subject listing have been revised—courses now primarily serve the Biology program and Biology program students. This proposal is to create a new subject listing where WISCIENCE courses, currently offered in the Biology subject listing, can be offered. Members discussed points related to creating a new subject listing, including:

- Members were very supportive of finding a better home for WISCIENCE courses, outside of the Biology subject listing.
- A question was asked about whether "Integrated Science" is the best descriptor for the listing; however members could not offer a better description. JB indicated WISCIENCE also tried to find a better descriptor, but this was the best they had found.
- Members suggested it would be useful to describe under what circumstances cross-listing with other departments would be considered appropriate (and of course, such cross-listings would need to be approved by partner departments).
- Members asked when students might enroll "Integrated Science" directed study, and how that would differ from a directed study in a department. It would be useful to have clear guidelines for the nature of directed study projects in this listing. (Note: the Biology subject listing has guidelines that could be used as an example.)
- If L&S undergraduates will be taking courses in the subject listing, those courses would benefit from L&S review of the courses to determine if they meet L&S degree requirements.

L&S APC members unanimously approved the request to create a new subject listing, "Integrated Science."

#### **4. Request For Permission to Plan to Restructure: Departments of Urban and Regional**

**Planning (L&S) and Landscape Architecture (CALs)** *Guests: Professors John Harrington (LA), Ken Geskow (URP).* GD described the L&S two-step process for departments engaging in restructuring planning-- a request for permission to plan, and a final plan proposal. This 'permission to plan' proposal indicates the two departments' commitment to determine what restructuring (in this particular, merging) might mean, and whether this is the best course of action. If a request to restructure comes out of initial planning, that request will be reviewed at a future joint L&S and CALS APC meeting. Members were asked for advice they would give to the department as they continue the planning process. In conversation members suggested:

- The plan will need to address where it makes the best sense to location the new department, based on the academic, research, and service mission of the unit.
- Keeping focus on the academic benefits to merging will be helpful as the departments communicate to students and stakeholders.
- Keeping communication lines open with junior faculty is important.
- Academic programs and how they will be affected should be described in the plan, in particular how the restructure unit will manage these programs, and whether you anticipate if programs or listings might be combine, discontinued, or expanded.
- Since URPL and LA have faculty with joint appointments with UW Extension, the nature of these relationships will need to be discussed in a restructuring plan.
- The two departments may have very different cultures, so it can be helpful to think of strategies to create a new joint culture.

L&S APC members unanimously approved the request from Urban and Regional Planning (L&S) and Landscape Architecture (CALs) for permission to plan to restructure.

**5. Academic Program Review: L&S/CALS Undergraduate Major in Microbiology.** *Guest: Professor Richard Gourse (Chair, Bacteriology)* KB noted the PHD and MS programs have recently been reviewed; this review only addresses the undergraduate program. SP also noted this had received first review by CALS at a previous meeting. Points discussed in that meeting included uneven workloads for advising and instruction, improving communication within the department, and helping students understand the value of faculty advising. RG noted that the department is aware of the issues in the review, and is currently working on them. In conversation members discussed how to create a department culture that encourages more balanced workloads, and ways of connecting students to faculty advisor. L&S members unanimously accepted the report as complete.

*Meeting adjourned at 2:25*

ADDENDUM: Items 3, 4, and 5 were also approved by CALS APC.

*Notes submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, L&S Admin*