

APC Brief Notes

Tuesday, February 7, 2017, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m., 101 South Hall – *approved March 7, 2017*

Chair: Karl Scholz

Members present: Heather Allen, Charles Fry, Daniel Kapust, Clark Landis, Shirin Malekpour, Louise Mares, Marisa Otegui, Laura McClure, Daniel Quint

Observers present: Greg Downey, Anne Gunther, Elaine Klein, James Montgomery, Susan Ellis Weismer, Nancy Westphal Johnson, Eric Wilcots, Kimbrin Cornelius

1. Consent Agenda (a.) Approval of notes – December 20, 2016 and January 17, 2017. (b.) Request for Comment on New Program: UW-Whitewater, BA Film Studies. (c.) Request for Comment on New Program: UW-Madison, College of Engineering, PhD Minor in Quantitative Biology. Members approved the consent agenda; notes were approved as amended.

2. Action Items: (a.) Request to Create New Center: Economics, Center for Research on the Wisconsin Economy. GD led discussion. The new center will be housed in the Economics department, with a research on research of Wisconsin's economy and state-level issues. It will build on the research work of Noah Williams, who will be the initial director. Private foundations are expected to provide initial "seed" funding, and the department will pursue additional future funding. GD noted that the department has existing relationships with the foundations and a history of funding; this increased funding represents their increased commitment to this work. In discussion, members agreed that the proposal should include more information before they can approve it. In particular they requested the department add:

- Who may become an affiliate of the center
- More detailed information about the advisory board and its role
- A brief description of the existing relationship between the department and the funders around this type of research
- A letter of support from LaFollette, and potentially other departments (e.g. AAE) that conduct related research.

In discussion, members acknowledged the politicized nature of some foundations that may provide initial funding. They also acknowledged that research across campus is funded by organizations representing many political ideologies and agreed that this is appropriate when the funding source does not influence the results of the research. They also agreed that as proposed the Executive Committee would provide a transparent method of oversight. Including more information in the proposal as requested will also increase transparency to other stakeholders. GD will consult with the department and bring the question back to the APC in the future.

3. Academic Program Review a. Astronomy: Response to APC, GFEC Review. EW led discussion. He noted that the program review was supplemented with items the APC members requested at a previous meeting. The department completed and submitted an assessment plan, and also submitted some data they currently have related to assessment of student learning. In discussion, members agreed the department made a good faith effort to answer the APC's questions and appreciated the collection and review of additional information. Members wondered, should the department be concerned about the minimal Astronomy credits many undergraduate majors are completing? EW noted the faculty are currently grappling with this issue, and are reviewing the major requirements. In fact, the additional data they collected can help inform their decision. Members accepted the report as complete. (LM moves, LM seconds)

4. Dean's consultation: KS provided updates to the council on a variety of issues, including initiatives to enhance L&S students' learning experiences, and progress on diversifying L&S's revenue sources. He also reported on some slow progress in how campus approaches research and research collaborations. KS also asked for members perspectives on the current climate in their departments and areas.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm

Notes submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, L&S Admin