

BRIEF NOTES

College of Letters and Science Academic Planning Council
October 16, 2018, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m., 101 South Hall

Chair: Karl Scholz

Members present: Sarah Jedd, Dan Kapust, Rebecca Dunn, Jana Valeo, Ruth Litovsky, Cécile Ané, Seth Blair

Members absent: Katherine Bowie, Heather Allen

Observers present: Shirin Malekpour, Elaine Klein, Eric Wilcots, Jennifer Noyes, Greg Downey, Gloria Marí-Beffa, James Montgomery, Kimbrin Cornelius, Cal Bergman

1. Announcements

2. Consent Agenda (a) Approval of notes – October 2, 2018. This item was removed from the agenda because the notes were not circulated before to the meeting. **b. APC Annual Report.** KS proposed a revision to clarify the description of how the APC advises the dean. Members approved the Annual Report as revised.

3. Academic Program Review (a). (Integrative Biology) MS-Freshwater and Marine Science GMB led discussion. L&S initiated the program review after it moved from Engineering to L&S two years ago. The review found students are satisfied, are working closely with faculty on research, and are well-prepared for the job market. In discussion, members agreed that some of the identified challenges, including the absence of a common curricular structure, seem to stem from one of the greatest strengths of the program: its breadth of interdisciplinary study. The program admits a diverse array of students to a wide range of research labs and supervising faculty. Members recognized the value of students pursuing their interests through these different research areas; however, they agreed with the review committee recommendation that FMS create a shared seminar to create a common experience for all students. Members discussed the benefits of having a graduate handbook that documents the process for how students progress through the program, and describes commonalities of rigor, standards of evaluation and milestones across the different areas of research and expertise in the program. Members approved the motion to accept the program review as complete. Members also advised the program they must create a graduate handbook. **b. Planning & Landscape Architecture- Progress report from prior review.** GD led discussion. Last year the department submitted a program review that identified significant climate issues. As one part of addressing these issues, the L&S required the department to submit a progress report on these issues this year. The progress report circulated to members describes the department's work to address the climate issues in the last year, including creating a standing climate committee, conducting an annual climate survey and committing to addressing identified issues (the department has gone through one complete cycle of this work), hiring an outside investigator to conduct a climate assessment and share that information with the department and students, and creating clear policies and process for reporting grievances or sexual misconduct. In discussion, GD noted that the department seems committed to creating inclusive climate for students and faculty and are taking necessary steps to be successful. Members accepted the report.

4. Academic Program Changes (a.) (Planning and Landscape Architecture) Landscape Architecture undergraduate major, transferred from CALS. (i.) Program Home: College of Letters & Science, PLA (ii.) Program Name: Landscape and Urban Studies (BA/BS/AMAJ). Special Guests John Harrington, and Ken Geskow, Chair, Planning and Landscape Architecture GD led discussion. He reminded members that this department was merged from Landscape Architecture in CALS and Urban and Regional Planning in L&S to create a renamed Planning and Landscape Architecture in L&S. During the merger, faculty

suspended admissions to the Landscape Architecture major to give them time to update requirements to fit into an L&S context and to integrate urban planning into the curriculum. The proposal requests an updated curriculum (approved by the L&S Curriculum Committee), a name change to “Landscape and Planning Studies”, and opening admissions effective Fall 2019. JH noted the major focuses on how humans interact with their built environment, which is a substantially different focus from the professional accredited Landscape Architecture degree. This major offers an opportunity for interdisciplinary study across landscape architecture and urban studies, in a way that is not possible in the accredited program. In response to member questions about how students will find the new program, JH noted development of a new webpage is underway, and they have plans additional outreach, including an upcoming presentation to Advisor Consortium. Members approved the request to change the curriculum, open admissions Fall 2019, and change the name to Planning and Landscape Architecture.

b.(Economics) Visiting International Students Program Economics Visiting International Students program. GD led discussion. Economics plans to invite international students to study Economics for one or two semesters as part of a Visiting International Students Program (VISP). The program will also serve as a pipeline to an existing Graduation Foundations Named Option in Economics-MS. Courses selected for the program have capacity, so access for undergraduate Economics students will be maintained. Since VISP programs don’t lead to a transcribed credential, no official governance from L&S is required. However, APC requires departments to submit their plans so the committee can offer advice or identify potential areas of concerns. In conversation, members noted one broad concern for any VISP or other programs with a substantial international student audience is that the international students are often not integrated with the rest of the student body. GMB and GD offered to consult with DCS about this issue.

Notes submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, Curriculum Administration Specialist