

BRIEF NOTES

L&S Academic Planning Council

Tuesday, October 15, 2019, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m., 55 Bascom Hall – *approved November 5, 2019*

Chair: Eric Wilcots, Dean

Members present: Steve Kantrowitz, Jeanne Hamers, Kristi Slack, Cécile Ané, Seth Blair, Sue Ridgely, Rebecca Dunn, Kris Olds, Seth Blair

Observers present: Kristin Eschenfelder, Gloria Mari-Beffa, Greg Downey, Devon Wilson, James Montgomery, Kimbrin Cornelius, Shirin Malekpour, Jennifer Noyes

1. Announcements. EW noted that Comparative Literature voted to discontinue all programs and subject listings.

2a. Consent Agenda (a.) Approval of notes – October 1, 2019 (b.) Request for Comment (i.) UW-Stevens Point, Notice of Intent to Offer BS “Community Sustainability” (c.) Graduate School Technical Changes (i.) MS-Computer Sciences, New Named Option “Computer Sciences” (existing Named Option “Professional Program”) (ii.) Master of Social Work, New Named Option “Full Time MSW”, (existing Named Option, “Part Time MSW Madison”) Consent agenda approved by members (KS and SB abstain on approval of notes).

3. Academic Program Review (a.) Follow Up – Anthropology. GD noted Anthropology has been working closely and effectively with L&S issues around enrollment expansion, additional TA training (especially for TAs teaching ESR courses) and aligning their TA appointments with graduate school recommendations. In conversation, members discussed challenges of funding field work in the discipline. While the department works intensively with students to secure field funding, it is typically external. Members noted it would be helpful to track students’ external funding too, so they have a more complete understanding of student funding in their department. **(b.) Capstone Certificate in Communication Sciences and Disorders.** GMB led discussion. The capstone prepares students without an undergraduate focus in Communication Science and Disorders for graduate study in the field. It is a strong program and students have a high rate of acceptance into graduate programs. One noted concern is declining enrollments, and the departments is considering several ways to address this. In committee discussion, MGB noted this program does have instructional costs, although the review states otherwise. Members unanimously approved to accept the report.

4. Reports (a.) APC Annual Report to the L&S Senate. Members accepted the report.

5. Consultations of the Deans (a.) Policy on online courses. EW noted that campus and L&S have not yet fully wrestled with large picture issues involved with online course offerings, including how it fits into our undergraduate residential mission, and budgetary issues. Technology and online content can benefit students and help them engage with material; we also want to be strategic and thoughtful about our online offerings. The draft policy will help ensure departments are being intentional about the reasons for offering an online course as we grapple with some of the larger issues. SM noted the draft policy covers undergraduate courses only. It will ensure students always have face-to-face options for meeting program and degree requirements, that first and second year students are primarily enrolled in

courses with some face-to-face contact, and that departments to have pedagogical reason for offering a course online. Also given the resources it often takes to create a quality online course, it is helpful to for reviewers to know whether the course creator has knowledge or training in offering online courses, and know the department's future plans for the course. In conversation, members discussed several pedagogical reasons for offering courses online, including bringing in content expertise from around the world (difficult to do in-person and synchronously), and teaching outcomes related to digital skills. In terms of the draft policy, SM noted the department must provide information about why they wish to teach a course online, so we can ensure there are intentional and pedagogical reasons for doing so. Members unanimously approved the policy.

Meeting adjourned at 2:13 pm

Notes submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, Curriculum Administration Specialist