

**BRIEF NOTES** – *approved 9-15-2020*

L&S Academic Planning Council

Tuesday, May, 2020, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m., WebEx Online

Chair: Eric Wilcots, Dean

Members attending: Rebecca Dunn, Heather Allen, Jana Valeo, Jeanne Hamers, Steven Kantrowitz, Kristi Slack, Susan Ridgely, Cecile Ane, Seth Blair, Kris Olds,

Observers: Kimbrin Cornelius, Elaine Klein, Greg Downey, Jennifer Noyes, Kristin Eschenfelder, Cal Bergman, Sue Zaeske, Shirin Malekpour, James Montgomery, Devon Wilson, Gloria Mari-Beffa, Jonathan Klein, Susan Koenig

**1. Announcements and Updates.** Fueling Discovery, the Wisconsin State Journal insert, was published this past weekend. EW noted there are two commencement videos for campus and L&S celebrations that will be released for this weekend. He also announced a number of awards for research, teaching, and students.

**2. Consent Agenda (a) Approval of notes – 7 April 2020 (b) Request for Comment i. UW System: UW-Platteville Request to Offer Master of Science in Community Development and Administration (L&S offered no objections) ii. UW-Madison: Engineering: MS-Aerospace Engineering option for the Engineering Mechanics**<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=1120>. Members approved the consent agenda.

**3. Academic Program Review – BA/BS Biology (First reading, L&S APC discussion only).** The Biology major program is one of the largest majors in the college. It was previously administered by the Institute for Cross-College Biology Education, and moved into two academic departments, Integrative Biology and Bacteriology, about 10 years ago. The current administrative model is working much better than the previous model, though there are challenges to being in two departments. The colleges have invested in advisor and administrative structures, which has also led to improvements. Since the last review, the Neurobiology Named Option became very large and has been created as a separate major. The Plant Biology Named Option, on the other hand, is small, with only two enrolled students now. The review committee recommended to discontinue it. There are many indicators the program is doing well: Students graduate within 4 years, they are meeting learning outcomes, the population of students is diverse compared to other programs. Challenges include the percentage of student engaged in independent research, finding ways to build community, and connecting with alumni.

**4. Consultations of the Dean: Update on L&S Continuity of Instruction Efforts.** SM shared updates about spring conversion to remote instruction. The process overall went very well, but there were many challenges: internet challenges, difficulties finding quiet places to study or teach, different levels of comfort with technology, there were some inconsistencies with student experiences. She also summarized plans for converting summer courses to remote-only instruction, and contingency planning for Fall. CB provided a high-level summary of results from a student survey about the transition to remote instruction; the Survey Center will provide further analysis.

Notes submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, Curricular Administration Specialist