

Brief Notes – Approved 10/20/2020

College of Letters & Science Academic Planning Council

Tuesday, October 6, 2020, 1:00-2:30 pm

Location: Remote, via Zoom

Chair: Dean Eric Wilcots

Members present: Stephen Gammie, Rebecca Dunn, Cecile Ane, Louise Mares, Charo D’Etcheverry, Nancy Marshall, Jeanne Hamers, Kris Olds, Sue Ridgely, Rebecca Forbes Wank

Members absent: none

Observers present: Sue Zaeske, Elaine Klein, Greg Downey, Kimbrin Cornelius, Shirin Malekpour, Gloria Mara-Beffa, Kristin Eschenfelder, Tina Nielsen, James Montgomery, DeVon Wilson

1. Announcements/Information. SM circulated information about non-partisan voting information and resources for how to address and engage in discussions around elections. See <https://vote.wisc.edu/> to download the [slide](#) shared with instructors to address this topic.

2. Consent agenda (a) Approval of notes, 15 September 2020. Members approved the notes. (1)
Academic Program Actions (a) Department of English: Request to Create “New” Named Option, English Language and Linguistics, for Undergraduate Major in English <https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=1162> SZ noted that this new Named Option will formalize a track of study that has been offered in the major for some time. In response to a question about the differences between this and the Linguistics major, EMK clarified this program is focused on study of the in English language only, while the Linguistics major considers the study of all languages. Members unanimously approved the request to create a new Named Option “English Language and Linguistics” in the English BA/BS.

3. The Information School: Request to Rename PhD, Library and Information Science, to “PhD-Information” <https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=776>. KE led discussion. Six new faculty were hired last year in the iSchool, and program requirements needed to be updated to include and reflect expertise and areas of new faculty. The changes also build a clear professional pathway for students interested in industry placement, and will help build cohorts in the program. KO asked about naming conventions for similar programs. KE responded that names differ across institutions, but the one word (Information) is most prevalent, and can be inclusive of both Information Studies and Science. CA noted that graduate minors are often referred to as breadth, so they may wish to change their name of the breadth requirement within the degree to prevent confusion. Members approved the request to rename the PhD in Library and Information Science to “Information”

4. Departmental Restructuring (a) Request to Discontinue Department of Comparative Literature and Folklore Studies. SZ led discussion. She provided an overview that this restructuring can help make better use of resources within the Humanities division, and allow for potential reinvigoration of the study of comparative literature across campus. The proposal reflects all of the engagement, governance, and actions that have been taken around restructuring and discontinuing the department. No students are enrolled in the undergraduate major. The 6 enrolled graduate students have teach-out plans, and plan to defend their dissertations by the end of the summer. However, if any of them need to stay longer, they may be accommodated with a special degree. The Folklore Program has moved to the German, Nordic, Slavic department; both faculty and students are better supported within this larger department that is well-experienced with program and course administration. The COMP LIT subject listing still exists; oversight of the subject listing has been moved to L&S Administration. Two faculty members have not yet found appropriate tenure homes; until they have done so they are professors of the college, and work closely with SZ on their responsibilities. Foundation funds are being reviewed and moved as appropriate per their intended use. This act of discontinuation is the final part of this process. CD noted that she was impressed by the amount of work that went into thinking through all the implications, and the needs and

goals of current graduate students was carefully considered. Members unanimously approved the request to Discontinue the Department of Comparative Literature Folklore Studies. The next phase of the request will include transmittal of L&S approval to the University Academic Planning Council and to the Secretary of the Faculty, who will plan to have the information read at a future meeting of the university-wide Faculty Senate.

5. Annual Report of the L&S Academic Planning Council. Members approved the motion to accept the report.

6. Discussion: Consultations of the Dean (a) Follow up on previous discussion: Graduate Record Examination and Admission Requirements. EW noted that L&S approved the requests to remove GRE requirements from programs for now; many prospective students are not able to sit for the exams because of the pandemic. Good issues and concerns were raised at the last meeting in terms of helping departments take actions to increase and support student diversity in L&S graduate programs. He will create an opportunity later year for deeper conversation and conversation, and with resources to help departments engage in these questions.

Meeting adjourned 1:55 pm.

Notes submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius