

BRIEF NOTES – approved 11/3/2020

College of Letters & Science Academic Planning Council

Tuesday, October 20, 2020, 1:00-2:30 pm

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: Kris Olds

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

(1) Announcements/Information: (a) Good news! ([UW-Madison Retention Rates](#))

(a) COVID-19 Updates: Thanksgiving and end of Semester planning (i) Info for students ([Dean of Students’ message](#), [University Housing](#)) (ii) Info for [employees](#) (b) L&S Administration

“Topic of the Month” — “Issues Management: Communicating Effectively During Times of Crisis or Concern, in the Classroom and Beyond” — Thursday, October 29, 2020, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. via Webex ([Register by October 27](#)) (c) Reminder: register for the [2020 Diversity Forum](#) (Oct 27-28, 2020) (d) Provost [Statement on Sept. 22, 2020 Executive Order](#)

(2) Consent agenda (a) Approval of notes – October 6, 2020 (b) Department of Psychology: Request to postpone implementation date of Data Science & Human Behavior and related proposals (approved April 2020) to Fall 2022. Consent agenda approved with correction of notes.

(3) Academic Program Actions (a) French and Italian: Request to Create New Capstone Certificate, French Studies for Teachers Lumen: <https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=1014> SZ led discussion. French and Italian’s market research found there is demand for such a potential revenue-generating program. Since it relies on courses taught in their existing 131 program, additional costs are minimal. Members approved the request to create the new Certificate. (b) Classical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies (contingent on Dept approval): (i.) Request to Discontinue Named Option, MA-CANES, “Hebrew Bible (HEBR BIBL)” Lumen: <https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=499> (ii) Request to Discontinue Named Option, PhD CANES, “Hebrew Bible (HEBRWBIBL)” Lumen: <https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=500> SZ led discussion. There are not enough faculty to sustain the program, and admissions have been closed. This is the final step of closing the programs. SZ, EMK, and the department chair worked together with all enrolled student to create teach-out plans. They will finish by Summer 2021, but if any do not, they may still receive a degree by special committee with their specialization in Hebrew Bible noted. Members approved the request to Discontinue the two Named Options, contingent on Department approval. (c) Economics: Request to Create New Undergraduate Certificate in Economic Analytics Lumen: <https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=1158> GD led discussion. This certificate is designed to introduces students to Economic approach to data, tools, and statistics—and is not designed for Economics majors. It is also intended to be a good compliment with the Data Science program. SR reported the L&S Curriculum Committee was enthusiastic about the proposal, and recommended approval. CA wondered if this fits with

planned models of departments linking to the Data Science program. EMK replied there could be several models. A benefit of this one is a certificate housed in Economics reflects that their department is best positioned to design a curriculum about data in their discipline. CA noted there may be some continuing conversation between Statistics and Economics about which foundational Statistics courses should meet requirements. Members unanimously approved the request to create the new certificate.

(4) Consultations of the Dean. Members had conversation about how things were going this semester. Topics of challenges included:

- Assessments and exams, particularly around academic integrity. Honorlock may help with integrity issues but comes with its own set of challenges.
- Determining whether to hold classes asynchronously vs synchronous. Synchronous has some real benefits, but students have different (and strong) preferences. International student pose an issue for synchronous.
- Scrambling non-stop to accommodate for absences in-person courses, which is especially difficult for lab courses.

Bright spots mentioned:

- In some in-person classes students are so glad to be together
- Social Science Research Services has been a great help with giving students access to remote computing platforms.
- Students are resilient and hopeful- many are meeting the challenges thrown their way.

In questions about how L&S could further support instruction during the pandemic, members suggested:

- Resources, sharing, help around exams and quizzes online.
- Workshops or resources that could help instructors go beyond the basics
- People are really stretched for time, so take that into account.
- Find ways to help colleagues learn from each other's successes.

Meeting ended 2:10 pm.

Notes submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, L&S Teaching & Learning Administration