

Brief Notes – approved 12/15/2020

College of Letters & Science Academic Planning Council

Tuesday, December 1, 2020 (1:00 – 2:30 p.m.)

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

Observers present: Sue Zaeske, Elaine Klein, Greg Downey, Kimbrin Cornelius, Kristin Eschenfelder, Tina Nielsen, James Montgomery, DeVon Wilson, Cal Berman, Shirin Malekpour

The first portion of this meeting was held in Joint Session with the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Academic Planning Council, to discuss matters of interest to both Colleges.

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Academic Program Matters (a) Notice that the shared L&S/CALS major in Environmental Sciences will no longer allow students to add a major in Environmental Studies, due to concerns about program overlap. (Information only) <https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=87>. See motion below. (a) Biology Program Review (final discussion). KB led discussion. The last program review recommended restructuring, and that work has been done. L&S has taken primary responsibility for administering instruction, especially in the intro sequence; CALS has taken primary responsibility for program administration and advising support. A Biology major program committee was created, and led by co-chairs from L&S and CALS. Some of the self-identified challenges include building community and alumni relationships. Strengths include quality of student learning, the administrative structure of the program, and curriculum as designed. Recommendations included continuing work of understanding student learning (assessment), finding ways to build student community; and bolstering alumni relations. Finally, there is a recommendation to discontinue the Plant Named Option, given the continued small number of students enrolled. *See motion below.*

3. Consultation with the Deans Discussion Item: Proposal to add four questions focused on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to Lumen Program Proposal Form See:

<https://uwmadison.app.box.com/s/s5nl24jm6nshh5j1bicl8cx354t1egwz>

EW led discussion about the questions, asking for feedback. He noted that the questions currently appear in Lumen Programs; departments are prompted for them for new programs and certain types of program changes. Some departments have provided feedback that the questions don’t seem applicable to the type of the change they are making. Members discussed the questions, themes included:

- The questions may prompt departments to engage in important and substantive conversation about how to support diversity and inclusion in their programs, and they may be particularly helpful when proposing a new program
- Members discussed the goals of the questions. They noted review committees would need expertise and context to be able to provide feedback or guidance, and that assessment of the efficacy of diversity and inclusive efforts was important
- Specifically, members noted hiring questions don’t always seem applicable for every program, and is an issue can be constrained by budget, HR, etc.
- Members discussed the different place for these types of questions – annual diversity reports and program review, for example. Depending on the goal, some of these questions could be

incorporated into those efforts.

(4) Consent Agenda (a) Approval of notes, November 3, 2020 (b) Request for comment (i) UW-Madison: (1) CALS: [Request to Create Undergraduate Certificate in Organic Agriculture](#) (2) Nelson Institute: [Request to Create a New Center for Ecology and the Environment](#) Members approved the consent agenda.

(5) Updates on Prior APC Action/Review/Comment: (a) CALS: Request to Discontinue PhD-Development (second discussion) <https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=746> (b) L&S, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Response to GFEC Review

6. Academic Program Action (a) Environmental Science / Environmental Studies - vote and recommendations Members accepted the report as complete, and approved the overlapping rule.

7. Academic Program Review (a.) Biology Major Program Review – vote and recommendations. Members approved the motion to accept the report as complete. They also approved a motion to suspend admission and discontinue the Plant Biology Named Option, if that proposal is submitted by department. **(b) Graduate Certificate in Public Humanities.** SZ led discussion. She noted that Public Humanities is an important area of study nation-wide. Students value the program, and it provides include career preparation and job placement. However, there is no clear faculty oversight of the curriculum, nor promotion of visibility to students and faculty. Only three students have completed the certificate since it was created. Recommendations include relocating it to an academic department; create a steering committee with policies and procedures; appointing a faculty director. In conversation, members discussed enrollment expectations for the program to continue, what departments might be a good academic home, and whether students are finding other ways to develop skills in this area and may not need a formal certificate. Members agreed the lack of faculty involvement was very concerning, and this, as well as finding a home in academic department, must be addressed for the program to continue.

Members approved a motion to postpone the decision to suspend admission until April 15, 2021, by which time a faculty committee will be expected to submit intention to restructure program. Failure to respond will provoke a request to suspend admission to the program.

Members also noted the proposal must include the intention to submit a plan for program continuation to be submitted by a faculty committee by November 30, 2021. Failure to submit a plan to continue the program and house it in an academic department with oversight by a faculty committee with bylaws will provoke APC motion to suspend and discontinue

8. Academic Program Change (a) Request for Authorization to Implement a new PhD, Gender & Women's Studies. SZ reminded members this follows an approve Noticed of Intent. Motion to approve the Authorization to Implement a new PhD, approved.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Notes submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, Curriculum Administration Specialist