

Brief Notes – *Approved on 4/6/21*

College of Letters & Science Academic Planning Council

March 2, 2021, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm (virtual meeting)

Chair: Dean Eric Wilcots

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

Members absent:

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

1. Announcements/Information. EW noted that the proposal to create a new online undergraduate degree is moving forward; a consultation with UW Stout resolved the issues they originally articulated. He also provided updates on vaccinations: UHS is coordinating, and will contact individuals when they are eligible to receive vaccinations. Other updates: also employees that are paid monthly will be converted to bi-weekly after July 1. Finally, the L&S Academic Building is including in the governor’s capital budget request, which is good news!

2. Consent agenda a. Approval of notes, February 18, 2021 (b.) Request for comment, UW-Madison: College of Engineering: (i). BS-Computer Engineering, “Machine Learning and Data Science” <https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=1202> **ii. BS-Electrical Engineering, “Machine Learning and Data Science”** <https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=1205>. KE noted that in the ideal world, CDIS could provide related coursework in this area, they also acknowledge that Engineering needs content and skill development that is focused on Engineering applications. Members approved the consent agenda, and voiced support for the Engineering proposals.

3. Old Business (a) L&S APC Action on Graduate Certificate in the Public Humanities. SZ reminded committee members that during the academic review, the L&S APC recommended the certificate be moved into an academic unit or closed. The History department expressed interested in housing the certificate, but requested an extension to the deadline to submit a request to relocate the certificate (until October 22, 2021). Members were supportive of an extension, however they recommended that admission to the certificate to be suspended until the final decisions are made. Members granted the extension; however, this approval was made contingent on a request to suspend admission to the program until the program is relocated. (If the program cannot be relocated, it will be discontinued.)

4. Academic Program Review (a.) MS-Computer Sciences, “Professional Program” KE led discussion. The program is doing well, they have a good year completion rate. About 75% of applicants are international. They are working to increase diversity of the student body. Some of the challenges they articulated was faculty advising, as well as career advising, and the physical environment in the building where courses are taught, especially in terms of learning spaces for students. In conversation, members discussed possible strategies that could connect students with faculty around academic and career advising. Members approved the report as complete **(b) Low-Award Program: Portuguese MA, PhD.** SZ praised the review committee, which provided a very thorough report under adverse pandemic circumstances. This is a low award program (they awarded fewer than 5 awards in the last 5 years). SZ asked the committee to make a recommendation about whether the program should continue. The programs have high value: they help us with Title XI funding, they also have help support graduate student work. Merging the programs with the Spanish program, however, to create a “Spanish & Portuguese” program, could help keep the programs sustainable, give students a more interdisciplinary

focus to their studies. The review committee also recommended appointing an outside advisory committee, with external staff and faculty to assist with a merger, if that would happen. Finally, the SZ noted the review committee recommended hiring another Portuguese faculty member, when possible (reallocating a professorship from Spanish to Portuguese). But: we also need to be very careful and thoughtful about resource management of Spanish courses, which have much higher undergraduate enrollments. Committee members had conversation about resources to maintain separate academic credentials, and acknowledged that advanced study of Portuguese can still be advanced with a specific, separate credential.

5. Other Actions: (a.) L&S: Discontinuation of Program Codes – Distinction in the Major Discussion.

APIR approached L&S about program codes that had been underutilized (many never awarded, with only a handful recently awarded). The L&S Curriculum Committee approved discontinuation of those program codes for Thesis of Distinction, since none of these had been used in 10 years. Regarding Distinction in the Major – the L&S Curriculum Committee made a recommendation to discontinue all the unused ones. For those departments currently using program codes, they will have a sunset period where they can give students who have already started. The committee also recommended that the Faculty Honors Committee consider whether there should be alternate paths through the Honors in the Major, since the most common reason given for keeping the award is because the Honors in the Major is difficult to attain. The assistant director for Honors serves on the L&S Curriculum Committee, and she indicated that the FCH would likely be happy to consider this issue.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

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