

Brief Notes – Approved on 4/6/21

College of Letters & Science Academic Planning Council

March 16, 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, Shirin Malekpour, Gloria Mari-Beffa, Cal Bergman

(1) Announcements/Information: (a) Distinction in the Major Given the discontinuation of the Distinction in the Major plans, departments are being contacted about sunseting the ability to award the distinctions and removing information about them from program’s Guide pages. **(b) Graduate Certificate in Public Humanities** History appreciated L&S APC approving the delay in deadline to respond, and accepted this was contingent on suspending admission to the program. **(c) Commencement -** <https://news.wisc.edu/uw-madison-to-celebrate-spring-commencement-with-graduates-only-ceremonies-at-camp-randall/> **(d) Pandemic Response Updates:** <https://covidresponse.wisc.edu/>

(2) Consent agenda (a) Approval of notes – March 2, 2021 *Removed from agenda, postponed to next meeting* **(b) Request for comment, UW-Madison: School of Human Ecology, program namechange. From BS: Retailing and Consumer Behavior to BS: Consumer Behavior and Marketplace Studies LUMEN Programs:** <https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=505> Consent agenda approved by members.

2. Academic Program Review (a)English (BA/BS Major, MA, PhD). SZ led discussion. She noted English is an excellent department: it is highly ranked nationally (and among the very top programs in Creative Writing and Poetry), they play a critical role across campus with their role in teaching of writing. They have also successfully and intentionally responded to the declining in interest in Humanities by updating their course array to be high attractive and relevant to current students, have broadened focus beyond ‘traditional’ study and have collaborated with other units to create the Health & Humanities certificate. Their department has also prioritized increasing diversity of faculty hires in their department and have been successful in doing this. SZ also noted the additional document was provided Box reflects recent updates in English as a Second Language area of the department. In discussion discussed the time-to-degree, and recommended English consider developing a plan of action of shorten or regularize time-to-degree. The committee also suggested the department further consider the data about how likely students were to recommend the program. Members accepted the report as complete, and to provide recommendations about the survey and time-to-degree to the department. **(b) BioCore (undergraduate Honors Certificate)** – GMB led discussion of the review, seeking guidance on a few issues to be discussed with program representatives.. The certificate was created several years ago, so that students can receive a transcribed credential for completing the coursework. One challenge of the certificate is that Biology content and instructors are all across

campus. While at times this is a strength, it can be difficult to convince non-L&S departments to support and participate. And, many instructors only teach a portion of a class, in their particular specialty area. Another challenge, which the program is trying to address, is the perception that the courses are very hard. In discussion, members noted that enrollments may always be constrained to some point because of the number of courses that students need to take to meet their programs introductory Biology requirement. But it is an excellent program that prepares students very well for upper level courses. Members had some conversation about the program existing independently – a benefit of being part of a department is the related expertise in the varied and broad administrative areas that are required to keep programs running well. Members will vote on the report in the second discussion at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm

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

Please note that in compliance with ss. 19.81 Wis. Stats. and with the 1974 Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), portions of this meeting may be closed to the public, to prevent release of student record information without prior written authorization from the student or students involved.