

College of Letters & Science Academic Planning Council

Brief Notes – Approved November 16, 2021

October 19, 2021, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m., 52 Bascom Hall

Chair: Dean Eric Wilcots

Members present: Lori Kido-Lopez, Jeremy Morris, Eric Grodsky, Rebecca Forbes-Wank, Kris Olds, Andrea Arpaci-Dusseau, Christy Tremonti, Charo D’Etcheverry, Jeanne Hamers, William Cox, Stephen Gammie, Daniel Grabois, Jeanne Hamers

Members absent: Nancy Rose Marshall

Observers present: Tina Nielson, Kristin Eschenfelder, Greg Downey, Kimbrin Cornelius, Susan Zaeske, Cal Bergman, Gloria Mari-Beffa, Elaine Klein, James Montgomery, Devon Wilson.

1. Announcements and Updates (a.) BLS+MASS approved by UW Board of Regents (b.) Irving and Dorothy Levy Hall Announcement. EW announced a \$20M gift to fund a new L&S building that will house many departments that are currently in the Humanities building.

2. Consent Agenda a. Notes from September, 21, 2021 b. Requests for Comment (i.) UW-Madison, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (1.) Rename MS/PhD “Electrical Engineering” to “Electrical and Computer Engineering” Members approved the consent agenda.

3. Approval Items: a. Annual Report of the L&S Academic Planning Council, 2020-2021 Members accepted the report (and noted a small typo in the program review introduction). **b. Review i. Academic Program Review: Geoscience: BA/BS Geology and Geophysics (BA/BS/MAJ 470) MS-Geoscience (MS 468L&S) GMIN Geoscience (GMIN 468) *low award minor PhD, Geoscience (PHD 468L&S).** MB noted one current goal of the department is to consider the current focus of research and curriculum on fossil fuel applications, and how that will need to change in the future. The department is also considering how to increase the number of applicants to the graduate program, as well as the diversity of applicants. Members were appreciative of the department’s work over the last few years to address the recommendations from previous program review. Members accepted the report as complete. **c. Academic Program Actions i. LaFollette School of Public Affairs: Request to Rename Subject Listing (826, Long Name) from “LaFollette School of Public Affairs” to “Public Affairs and Public Policy”** Members approved the long name change. **ii. Lumen Structures Proposal: <https://next-guide.wisc.edu/miscadmin/?key=101> The Information School: Request to Discontinue Academic Program, PhD “Library and Information Studies” Lumen Programs Proposal:<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=7764>.** The Information School proposed a new PhD that has a broader field of research that expected to better meet students’ needs. With the approval of this new PhD, this program will be closed. Members approved the request to discontinue the program.

For Discussion: Report and Recommendations of the Cross-Listing Working Group (April 2021)

5.Consultations of the Dean. EW asked for APC feedback on a report created by a Cross-List Working Group, sponsored by the University Curriculum Committee. The committee was charged with considering benefits and issues of cross-listing and provide recommendations for future practice. JM noted that the report wasn’t particularly well-received by the committee and provided a brief summary of the L&S CC feedback on the report:

- Due to the presentation of the report, members were confused about the status of report and where things were in the process.
- The report came from a place that emphasized the administrative and technical issues, without carefully considering the many benefits (and that likely some of them are certainly worth the administrative burden). Cross-listing is a fundamental mechanism through which the institution can underscore the value of interdisciplinary study, which is a value that is central to L&S' mission. Many faculty members who use cross-listing regularly do so because they are affiliated with multiple departments.
- The working group did not appear to intentionally engage with the departments and faculty that would be most affected; this is particularly problematic because the members believed recommended new cross-listing criteria would drastically reduce the course array for most small interdisciplinary departments.
- Members recommended that before making changes to cross-listing, there should be more study of the issues and consider a variety of issues that could solve them.

APC members agreed with the L&S CC feedback. In conversation APC members also noted:

- In several small departments nearly all the faculty are joint appointments. The recommendations for new cross-listing criteria don't seem realistic; they'd create absurd situations that force these faculty to always to teach cross-listed courses or make arrangements otherwise (or else lose the cross-listing).
- While many cross-listings are functional or pedagogical, many of them play a significant role in representing the scholarly identity of the faculty and the courses they teach. Cross-listing helps provide a sense of belonging within the institution for many faculty (and helps ensure their courses are reaching particular communities of students faculty are a part of/connected with).
- Buy-in is really important. Faculty and staff in departments that will be affected need to be engaged, and decisions need to be informed by their experiences and needs.
- L&S celebrates interdisciplinary, and we have programs that specifically address this, like Cluster hires (often TOP hires as well). Representing this interdisciplinary nature of our College is important in our course array, too.

EW will work with JM, EMK and KC to summarize the discussions of both the committees, and send a memo to the UCC with our feedback.