

Brief Notes

College of Letters & Science Academic Planning Council
November 16, 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, Christy Tremonti, Jeanne Hamers, William Cox, Stephen Gammie, Daniel Grabois, Jeanne Hamers, Eric Grodsky

Members absent: Charo D’Etcheverry, Andrea Arpaci-Dusseau

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

2. Consent Agenda a. Notes from 19 October 2021 b. Requests to discontinue Graduate Minors i. GMIN612 Library and Information Sciences <https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=438> ii. GMIN837 Public Affairs <https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=469> Members approved the consent agenda.

3. Approval Item: a. Department of French and Italian: Request to suspend admissions to several programs, collectively known as the “Professional French Master’s Program” i. MFS 452L&S “French Studies” (Parent Program) ii. 452MFSFSSI, “French Studies Summer Institute” iii. 452MFSFTAC, “Full-Time Academic” iv. UNCS 451 “Capstone Certificate of French Studies for Teachers” SZ noted this is a revenue-generating program designed for teachers of French. Enrollments have significantly declined, and no longer can support the budget of the program; the decreased enrollments are also resulting in administrative burden that is comparatively high for few students. The department plans to suspend admission effective Fall 2022. The department will then consider whether to restructure or discontinue the program. Members approved the request to suspend admissions for these four programs, effective Fall 2022.

4. Request for Comment: Nelson Institute, Notice of Intent to Offer a. New Doctoral Program, “Ecology and Evolutionary Biology” LUMEN STRUCTURES PROPOSAL: <https://next-guide.wisc.edu/miscadmin/?key=116> *Guest Lauren Ritters, Professor and Chair, Integrative Biology.* EW led discussion. He noted the Biology program landscape at UW-Madison is more decentralized than other campuses, and a program such as this could potentially be hosted by one of several departments. GMB and EMK have been working with colleagues in the Nelson Institute to understand what is being proposed, as well as with L&S Integrative Biology to understand potential impact and implications for their department. LR summarized some iBio discussions. They department agreed that a program with this name could potentially help biology departments across campus recruit top doctoral candidates. However, they also had questions that were not addressed in the proposal. They wondered how the program will be distinct from the other programs in this area (that might have different names), who will teach the courses, how students will be funded when working with faculty across the various schools and colleges. They also wondered what will be the structure and responsibilities of departments that have the primary role in teaching and advising. In conversation, committee members also noted that in programs that span departments, schools and colleges students may receive widely varying levels of support, may

experience different program requirements (or interpretation thereof), differential access to advising services, and be subject to different department and/or school/college policy. They wondered how these issues would be addressed with this program.

APC members agreed they were not opposed to the proposal. However, they also asked for more information before providing support. The APC approved a motion to table the request for comment, and directed the Dean to seek more information and a letter of support from Integrative Biology before the APC considers supporting the proposal.

5. Prior Business: Low Award Academic Program Review: Portuguese (BA, MA, PhD) SZ noted that because the program fell below award thresholds, L&S convened a review to determine the best way forward. The review committee had recommended that the Portuguese programs could be merged with the Spanish language program which this could make the programs both easier to administer and help students meet their education goals. Another recommendation was to create an undergraduate certificate program in Portuguese. The department noted that the Portuguese section had recently revised the undergraduate requirements with the goal of increasing enrollment; those changes have not had time to yield results, so they prefer to defer action on the undergraduate program. The department has two tenured faculty in this area, and given the demands of graduate program administration, does support the committee's recommendation to merge the programs at the graduate level. The department (across areas) is considering new ways to organize curriculum to support more general study at the graduate level. This item does not require APC approval. [Amended to add: this topic will be revisited in future APC discussion.]

The meeting ended at 2:34 p.m.

Submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, Academic Planner