BRIEF NOTES – *approved February 15, 2022*
College of Letters & Science Academic Planning Council
February 1, 2022, 1:00-2:30 p.m., 52 Bascom Hall

Chair: Eric Wilcots
Members: Andrea Arpaci-Dusseau, William Cox, Charo D'Etcheverry, Eric Grodsky, Jeanne Hamers, Lori Kido-Lopez, Nancy Rose Marshall, Jeremy Morris, Kris Olds, Christy Tremonti
Members absent: Rebecca Forbes-Wank, Stephen Gammie, Kris Olds
Observers: Cal Bergman, Kimbrin Cornelius, Greg Downey, Kristin Eschenfelder, Elaine Klein, Gloria Mari-Beffa, James Montgomery, Tina Nielsen, Sue Zaeske

1. Welcome, updates, announcements. SZ announced recent teaching award recipients in L&S.

2. Consent agenda (a) Approval of notes, January 18, 2022. Members approved the notes**. (b) INTER-LS Subject Listing (Revised Guidelines and Procedure)** EMK noted the L&S Curriculum was also consulted on these guidelines and they agreed it was a sustainable way to approach the work of overseeing the subject listing. Members approved the INTER-LS Guidelines

3. Academic Program Actions: Political Science: Request to Create Undergraduate Certificate in Political Science (i) Lumen Programs Proposal: https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=1262 It is 16 credits, and the target audience is students who are interested in Political Science but may not be able to complete the full major. It's structured with an introductory requirement, a research/writing requirement, and electives. Members approved the request to create the certificate.

4. Academic Program Review (a) Mid-term Report on Program Review; EMK noted report provides overview of the work that has been done this year; the college is making good progress on its program review commitments. She also noted she will be communicating with departments that have low award programs. Many of them are already working on revisions to address low award programs, however L&S will continue to support low award programs when there are good reasons for them. **(b) Prior business: Biology Core Curriculum Response to Program Review (proposed by-laws and leadership structure)** GMB reminded members that the APC had asked for the steering committee to create by-laws and to articulate a leadership structure. They program has done both of these things: they have chosen a leadership structure of a faculty director and associate director who may be staff, as have articulated by-laws. Members approved a motion to accept these documents in fulfillment of the conditions of review, and advised the dean to continue to follow through with the program.

5. Discussion: Consultations of the Dean: Request to Create Campus-wide policy on Digital Badges (first discussion). *Guest Associate Dean Marty Gustafson, Division of Continuing Studies* MG provided an overview. She noted Badges are not transcripted credentials, they are a UW-Madison verified confirmation of successful completion of a defined assessment. It is a digital "sticker" that follows the students (it can be posted on LinkedIn for example); and it has secure metadata associated with it so viewers can see from whom the "sticker" was earned, what assessments involved, and the evidence that the student mastered the material. Many of Badges are already offered on campus; however, there is no guiding policy to ensure consistency in standards and oversight. The Division of Continuing Studies is administering most badges. The draft policy under discussion was proposed to fill a policy gap in terms of when Badges may be offered, and minimum requirements or criteria.

Currently, absent guiding policy, any unit on campus may offer Badges (they are not limited to academic departments or programs). MG noted that components of the policy fit with national recommendations about Badges: they are not awarded for participation only, they may never be translated into credits, they will not be on the transcript. Units must pay an initial set-up fee to be able to offer badges. Units may charge the students a fee to earn a badge but are not required to do so. Historically, Badges were developed in response to employers' need to have verification of technology skill attainment, particularly in cases where an applicant would not necessarily have completed traditional academic coursework or earned credit in that area.

APC members had broad conversations about Badges, that included
- wanting to know about more the benefits of Badges to students, and how we know employers value them. More information would help members be confident that the Badges are of value and are worth the additional cost to students.
- wondering about administrative costs to create and maintain badges, and what might be the guidance or recommendation when a unit considers offering one
- In the cases where a Badge is contained completely within a for-credit course or academic program, members questioned if it is appropriate to charge students for it when they are already being assessed tuition. (Completion of a badge would not fall within current UW System policies governing Special Course Fees.)
- They wished to have the policy address how Badges would be reviewed regularly, to ensure that they remain current and updated (and that they are discontinued when no longer relevant).
- Members acknowledged that some L&S departments may be already offering these badges, and that the interest in doing so may vary widely between departments, depending on their audiences and needs.

Council will continue this discussion at the next meeting, which will be held in joint session with CALS.

Meeting adjourned at 2:24 pm
Notes submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, Academic Planner, L&S Teaching & Learning Administration