

## **BRIEF NOTES -approved 3/1/2022**

College of Letters & Science Academic Planning Council  
February 15, 2022, 1:00-3:00 p.m., 55 Bascom Hall

Chair: Eric Wilcots

Members: Andrea Arpaci-Dusseau, William Cox, Charo D'Etcheverry, Rebecca Forbes-Wank, Stephen Gammie, Eric Grodsky, Jeanne Hamers, Lori Kido-Lopez, Nancy Rose Marshall, Jeremy Morris, Christy Tremonti

Absent: Kris Olds

Observers: Cal Bergman, Kimbrin Cornelius, Greg Downey, Kristin Eschenfelder, Elaine Klein, Shirin Malekpour, Gloria Mari-Beffa, James Montgomery, Tina Nielsen, Devon Wilson, Sue Zaeske, Rebekah Pare, Mike Pflieger

*Note: The L&S Academic Planning Council met jointly with the CALS Council for the Agenda items 1 & 2 and met independently for the remaining agenda items.*

### **1. Welcome and Introductions (a) Review Agenda; (b) Revisions to Agenda**

**2. Request for Comment: Proposed Campus Policy on Digital Badges “Digital Badges Policy and Process” DCS presentation to UAPC, 1/20/2022 UAPC Doc 20220120.014 (1/20/2022) (i) DCS Digital Badge Proposal form:**  
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/d5a2e3cd753742688bdc60b8577cbaf8>

*Guests: Jeff Russell, Dean, of Continuing Studies and Scott Owczarek, University Registrar.*

JR noted Digital Badges are a digital record of demonstration of particular learning or skill. UW-Madison offers several badges now. They are frequently offered in the non-credit space; however there has been increasing interest by academic departments to offer these credentials to certify student learning in ways that leverage for-credit courses in combination with other work students may do. Digital badges link to secure metadata that provide a record of the verified student learning/skill attainment; these digital tokens are linked to images that can be presented on resumes, websites, LinkedIn profiles, etc. Creation of policy will set establish expectations, oversight, and procedures. DCS will maintain the platform for awarding and recording the digital badges; departments or units cover the costs of creating the assessment, assessing, and adding the results into the system. The tool is aligned with industry standards for badges. SO noted they hoped to use Lumen in the procedure to propose new badges, which would allow for easier governance review, record-keeping, and consultation between interested units. JR and SO responded to questions from both CALS and L&S APCs, on topics ranging from the utility of these credentials and their presence in the for-credit space; allocation of resources to propose, approve, offer, and assess them; the need for university policy, etc.

**3. Consent agenda (a) Approval of notes – February 1, 2022; (b) Request for comment: UW-Madison, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, Life Sciences Communication, “Certificate in Science Communication” (i) Proposal: <https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=1287>; (c) Request to Discontinue Subject Listing, East Asian Area Studies (E A STDS, Subject Code298) Members approved the consent agenda.**

**4. Academic Program Actions, Mead Witter School of Music (a) Request to Revise Bachelor of Music, Music Performance (MUS 688); (b) Request to Create Eight Named Options, BM: Music Performance (i) [Jazz](#) (ii) [Piano](#) (iii) [Organ](#) (iv) [Guitar](#) (v) [Strings](#) (vi) [Brass, Percussion, Woodwinds](#) (vii) [Composition](#) (viii) [Voice](#).** SZ noted that creation of these programs brings the department into alignment with our expectations that program requirements be articulated clearly in Guide and also programmed in DARS so that students can understand where they are in terms of progress to degree. Members approved the request to create the new Named Options and to revise the Music: Performance, BM requirements.

### **5. Consultations of the Dean: Continued Discussion, Digital Badge Policy**

In conversation, members discussed the need for:

- using precise language or definitions in the policy around terms like “certificates” and “credentials”, which are used both in the credit and non-credit space.
- clear communication to students and interested parties about the nature of approved digital badges
- regular oversight, review and assessment of digital badges
- school/college/unit oversight when new badges are created, to ensure that the investing resources in offering the learning experience and digital badge aligns with the goals, priorities and mission of the unit.
- the ability for L&S to set its own expectations and policies for digital badges once the campus policy is approved

Members also agreed that a campus policy about digital badges is necessary at this point. EMK and EW will synthesize the feedback that has been offered by senior staff, SuccessWorks, the L&S Academic Planning Council and the L&S Curriculum Committee and provide L&S feedback on the proposed policy. A draft memo to the Provost will be discussed at the next APC meeting, to comply with the request for feedback to be submitted by March 4, 2022.

Notes submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, Assistant Dean for L&S Teaching & Learning Administration