

BRIEF NOTES- approved 11-01-2022

College of Letters & Science Academic Planning Council

October 4, 2022, 1:00-2:30 p.m., 52 Bascom Hall

Chair: Eric Wilcots

Members: Catherine Auger, Andrea Arpaci-Dusseau, Sridhara Dasu, Charo D’Etcheverry, Isa Dolski, Peter Haney, Stephen Gammie, Lori Lopez, Nancy Rose Marshall, Jeremy Morris, Kris Olds, Kristen Shook Slack

Members absent: Kris Olds

Observers: Greg Downey, Kim Grocholski, Elaine Klein, Kristin Eschenfelder, Jennifer Klippel, Shirin Malekpour, Gloria Mari-Beffa, Tina Nielsen

1. Announcements/Information: EW mentioned several upcoming lectures and the Wisconsin Science Festival.

2. Consent Agenda (a) Approval of notes – September 20, 2022 (b) Item to be Noted for the Record: MA 975 L&S Gender and Women’s Studies, Lumen Proposal <https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=563> (c) Request for Comment: UW Madison, School of Education, MS-Curriculum & instruction, Named Option “World Language Education” Lumen Proposal: <https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=1268> (d) Annual Report of the L&S Academic Planning Council. Members approved the consent agenda.

3. Approval Items: (a) iSchool, MS-Information named option, “Research” to replace discontinued Certificate of Specialist in Library and Information Studies, Lumen Proposal (MS-information: Research) <https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=1237>, Lumen Proposal (Parent - MS572L&S:Information) <https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=1012> KE led the discussion. This new named option is part of the plan to discontinue the Certificate of Specialist in Library Science and offers Ph.D students a way to earn a master’s degree if they leave the doctoral program. Coursework and projected career outcomes support the use of the term “research” in the title. Members approved the request to create the new Named Option “Research.”

(b) Department of Mathematics request to create a new “Named Option” and rename one “Named Option” under the BA/BS Mathematics (Parent- BA 634: Mathematics): i. New Named Option, “Mathematics for Data Science” Lumen proposal: <https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=1289> ii. Renaming Named Option “Mathematics for Data and Risk Analysis” to “Mathematics for Statistical Analysis and Risk Assessment” Lumen Proposal: <https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=1115> GMB led the discussion and gave an overview of the BA/BS in Mathematics Named Options. It is possible to double major in the proposed Named Option “Mathematics for Data Science” and Data Science. Members approved the requests to create the new Named Option “Mathematics for Data Science” and rename the Named Option “Mathematics for Data and Risk Analysis” to “Mathematics for Statistical Analysis and Risk Assessment.”

4. Updates from the L&S Curriculum Committee EW introduced the topic of updating the undergraduate degree requirements. He started with the updates from the L&S CC committee and discussed the need for an inclusive feedback process. He gave an overview of the documentation produced by the working group and mentioned collective feedback provided by faculty in the Natural, Physical, and Mathematical Sciences Division.

JM gave an update on the Letters and Science Curriculum Committee (L&S CC) discussions. L&S CC is generally supportive but would like to solicit feedback more widely as the first step in moving forward. L&S CC will be reviewing materials to be sent out to gather feedback.

5. Consultations of the Dean: Liberal Arts 2030 Working Group Report

Committee members discussed the core principles and working group report and observers provided additional information and context. EW emphasized two goals in collecting feedback: To see if anything is missing and whether any of the principles needs to be adjusted. The committee discussed many topics related to the principles outlined in the working group report. Key discussion topics included:

- Governance groups and the role they play in this process; the role of the L&S CC committee in the process;
- How the structure of the feedback will differ based on which groups are solicited; Using the structures of division, departments, programs, as well as individual feedback at key points in the process;
- Additional information on how the working group crafted the principles and resources they consulted during the process;
- Defining and examining key terms used in the report;
- Underlying concepts presented in the report and how this relates to the role of the College in producing a well informed citizenry as part of its role as a public institution;
- Importance of including scientific principles, thinking, and methods;
- The role of certificates in undergraduate education;
- Creating confidence in the next set of degree requirements so the principles can be routinely revisited and evaluated in the future;
- Benefits of more cross discipline collaboration and focusing on the principles that have widespread agreement as a starting point;
- Encouraging department-level feedback during the process so the impact on course enrollments can be assessed by departments;
- Importance of focusing on how the College frames and delivers the liberal arts educational experience and impact this has on the individual student;
- The benefits a liberal arts education confers as students move into the workforce. SuccessWorks and other groups focused on employment will be consulted;
- Importance of not increasing time to graduation or increasing the number of credits needed for a degree;
- Role of AP credits in undergraduate education and importance of these credits to many prospective and current students; and
- Holding the College accountable for doing this project well and understanding the resource implications of making these changes.

The conversation ended with comments on how this project gives the College an exciting opportunity and this is the starting point for this process.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Submitted by Kim Grocholski, Academic Planner