

Brief Notes - approved 2/21/2023

College of Letters & Science Academic Planning Council

February 7, 2023, 1:00-2:30, 52 Bascom Hall

Chairs: Associate Academic Deans Greg Downey/Sue Zaeske

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

Members Absent: Isa Dolski, Eric Wilcots

Observers: Cal Bergman, Greg Downey, Kim Grocholski, Elaine Klein, Jennifer Klippel, Sue Zaeske, Ruth Litovsky, Tina Nielsen, DeVon Wilson

At the request of Dean Wilcots, Associate Deans Downey and Zeske chaired the meeting in his absence.

1. Announcements/Information: UAPC approved the program proposals that L&S APC approved this past Fall 2022, including the proposed Chican@ and Latin@ major that has been submitted to UW System. SZ updated members on the new Levy Hall building, opening August 2026. GD mentioned the [UW System results of system-wide survey](#) of students on “free speech.” UW-Madison has a website dedicated to free speech: <https://free-expression.wisc.edu/>. The Board of Regents announced the annual 2023 diversity awards. APC members and observers congratulated their colleague, Professor Lori Lopez (Communication Arts and Asian American Studies), whose research and teaching focus on ways disenfranchised communities use media to promote empowerment and social justice.

2. Consent Agenda a. Approval of notes- January 17, 2023 b. Program Combination: Joint PhD in Spanish & Second Language Acquisition Lumen Structures Proposal:

<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/miscadmin/?key=15> Members approved the consent agenda.

3. Prior business (no discussion): L&S Comment on Proposed Revisions, Credit Bearing Certificate Policy (Box) EMK collected feedback from College stakeholders and sent a memo to the Interim Director of APIR.

4. Approval Items: a. Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture: New Undergraduate Certificate in Integrative Design of Built and Natural Environments. Lumen Proposal:

<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=1263>

SZ served as chair. GD as AAD introduced the certificate proposal and led the discussion. This new undergraduate certificate is 14 credits and focuses on design in relation to spatial data, landscapes, cities, regions, and connecting with stakeholders in the social sciences. This certificate intends to reach out and connect with students who are in ethnic studies programs and have faculty that will serve as bridges to these programs. The certificate will be useful to many majors. PLA connected with Geography in crafting the certificate.

JM stated that L&S CC was supportive. The committee discussed the overlap with Certificate in Environmental Studies and wanted to ensure that one key course would have capacity and not create a bottleneck. Academic planning staff followed up on these two concerns and learned that there will be careful monitoring of the course and there is a plan to expand capacity if needed. KO confirmed that there had been detailed conversations with Geography and that the department

was supportive of the proposal. Committee members also asked about service learning courses and GD confirmed that many of the courses involve community engagement. SZ asked whether the School of Human Ecology had been consulted and EMK confirmed they had been notified and the Department of Design Studies, which includes an interior design program, endorsed the certificate since it focuses on exterior and large-scale urban spaces. Members unanimously approved the request to create the Certificate in Integrative Design of Build and Natural Environments.

5. Academic Program review

a. Department of Political Science: Certificate in Political Economy, Philosophy, and Politics (PEPP, CERT806)

SZ served as chair. GD as AAD introduced the review and led the discussion. This is a thorough self-study, the program director is dedicated, and there is healthy certificate enrollment. The report includes relevant demographic and assessment data. The program has listed some recommendations, such as reducing the need for DARS exceptions, encouraging students' engagement with other certificate students, and improving results of final papers for the next assessment cycle.

Members agreed with the assessment that the self-study was well-done. Members asked about the frequency of course offerings and how often this is assessed. SZ and GD discussed the nuances of assessing course offerings. GD explained that the steering committee is active and there is evidence they are adjusting the curriculum. SZ pointed out that there are new faculty who will add new courses to the list. Committee members also asked how students are prioritized for courses so they are able to finish the certificate. GD stated that steering committee members are from the departments involved, so they can help or have an exception entered to allow students to enroll.

Members then discussed certificate demographics and how the certificate program is addressing the gender gap between male and female students declaring the certificate. SZ pointed out that the three key departments involved in the certificate also reflect this gender gap. Committee members made several concrete suggestions that GD will relay to the program. Members approved a motion to accept the review as complete.

b. Department of History: Certificate in Medieval Studies (CERT450)

GD served as chair. SZ as AAD introduced the review and led the discussion. This is a thorough self-study from the certificate program. SZ explained how the administrative home stays stable regardless of the home department of the faculty director and this is a best practice within the College. Committee members asked follow up questions. SZ explained that funding for programmatic items, staff, and advising is centered in the administrative home department (History). For academic aspects, the certificate steering committee approves new courses and EMK clarified that the home department has to approve the proposal listing the new courses.

SZ summarized a number of administrative improvements including streamlining the number of credits, adding foundational courses, using the standard undergraduate GPA requirement, codifying bylaws, and creating better assessment procedures.

Committee members discussed the certificate and gave suggestions on collaborating with other disciplines to broaden the range of cultures and geography represented in the curriculum.

Members also asked about the type of compensation given to the director. Compensation is determined by the Dean, taking into consideration the overall compensation structure for faculty roles such as program directors and Department Chairs. SZ will follow up with the program regarding the idea of expanding medieval studies to other geographical areas. Members approved a motion to accept the review as complete.

c. Integrated Liberal Studies: Certificate in Integrated Liberal Studies (CERT380)

GD served as chair for the first half of the discussion; RL took over as chair for the second half. SZ as AAD introduced the review and led the discussion. SZ gave an overview of the history of the ILS program and staffing. The program has given more attention to the curriculum and worked with L&S CC as well as academic planning staff. They have also written bylaws and strengthened their enrollment and assessment practices. There continue to be challenges around course staffing, the condition of Meiklejohn house, and the method for which credits follow the instructor and how this impacts the budget model for interdisciplinary units such as ILS. ILS has requested to become a tenure home and the College will be formally following up on this request, which is separate from the review process. One possible area for future collaboration is with the Constellations program.

Committee members discussed staffing, enrollments and the budget model. Members also mentioned potential improvements to the ILS certificate website. Students involved in the certificate program feel a sense of community and are committed to the program. SZ will take the feedback from the committee back to ILS. Members approved a motion to accept the review as complete.

Discussion:

6. Consultations of the Dean: No items

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Submitted by Kim Grocholski, Academic Planner.