

Brief Notes - approved 3/21/2023

College of Letters & Science Academic Planning Council

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

Chair: Eric Wilcots

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

Members Absent: Sridhara Dasu, Stephen Gammie

Observers: Cal Bergman, Kimbrin Cornelius, Greg Downey, Kim Grocholski, Elaine Klein, Jennifer Klippel, Ruth Litovsky, Shirin Malekpour, Tina Nielsen, Sue Zaeske

1. Announcements/Information: The [governor's budget](#) has been released and includes some infrastructure items, including the new Engineering Building as well as the restoration of Music Hall, facilities for the Department of Art, and relocating departments out of Music Hall. This budget is the first step in a process and the final budget will be released this summer. L&S continues to produce exciting podcasts, including [L&S Elevate](#) and [The L&S Exchange](#).

2. Consent Agenda: Approval of notes – 02/21/2023

Members approved the consent agenda.

3. Request for Comment: College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, new major in Animal and Veterinary Biosciences, will replace the Animal Sciences major, Lumen proposal:

<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=1412>

This new major represents a reorganization of the Animal Sciences major in CALS, as that department was recently restructured and the academic programs are being revised. The College consulted with faculty in Integrative Biology, which is the L&S area of study most closely related to the major. Council members had a lively discussion, noting the many detailed observations shared by members of Integrative Biology, chiefly concerning the courses used in the curriculum from Dairy science and language used to communicate with students who may be seeking careers in Veterinary Medicine. The APC noted that we collectively will need to ensure that students are aware of the multiple pathways towards careers in Veterinary Medicine on our campus. APC members noted and appreciated that colleagues in ADS and in CALS attempted to address those points. Council members came to understand that this department is experiencing considerable transformation, and recognized that the department may need to work with existing courses and curricula as the new faculty collectively works together to build a new future as a unified department.

Various motions were discussed. A motion was introduced to not oppose creation of the new major. Members unanimously approved the motion to not oppose the creation of the new major in Animal and Veterinary Biosciences.

4. Academic Program Actions: Suspend/Discontinue UNCS300: Capstone Certificate in Data Analytics for Decision Making, Lumen proposal:
<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=963>

EMK led the discussion due to the Associate Academic Dean being absent due to teaching obligations. This program was slated for regular review but the enrollment has been low and anticipated enrollment never materialized. It is a non-pooled program consisting of a three-course curriculum and the courses are taught as part of the regular iSchool array. The iSchool wishes to devote resources to more robust programs with greater potential. There is one active student and the student should be able to finish before the program is ended in May 2025. There are a number of students who took one course and stepped out and the program has notified them of the pending discontinuation and offered options if they wish to finish the certificate. Admissions was informally suspended and there are no new students being admitted to the certificate. Members unanimously approved the suspension and discontinuation of the Capstone Certificate in Data Analytics for Decision Making.

5. Academic Program Review

a. Certificate in Health and the Humanities

SZ led the discussion. This is a very successful program but there are administrative challenges. The self-study was written in the English department with help from the steering committee as the program currently lacks a director. The success of the program lies in the strong enrollments and student interest in the certificate. It is also critical to provide a link between the Humanities and Medical sciences. Were the program to have proper infrastructure and administration, the certificate has strong growth potential.

In terms of challenges, the English Department does not have any faculty or instructional academic staff teaching courses for the certificate program. This has led to a disconnect between the department and program. Second, at the time of this discussion, the program currently lacks a director and there are few incentives to recruit one. (Subsequently, the College has allocated appropriate compensation and a director has been identified.)

Members discussed the positive impacts of this certificate program and asked follow up questions about the director position. Members also discussed the certificate home department and questioned whether the certificate might thrive in a different unit. Members unanimously approved a motion to accept the review as complete.

b. Certificates in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL):

i. Undergraduate Certificate CERT720

ii. Special Student Certificate SCRT720

iii. Graduate Certificate GCERT720

SZ led the discussion of the self-study, review committee report and Graduate School memo (Dated March 1, 2023). Three certificates were reviewed: undergraduate, special, and graduate. For the graduate certificate, SZ observed that enrollments are perennially low, there are no graduate-only courses in the graduate certificate curriculum, and the English department is

requesting additional staffing resources for a program that has low enrollment. Based on these observations, SZ concurred with the Grad School suggestion that closing the graduate certificate program should be an option.

SZ noted that the undergraduate certificate recently adjusted the course list and number of credits required, which are positive steps to attract more students. However, certificate enrollment is still low compared to other undergraduate certificates and allocation of additional resources is not warranted. Finally, the assessment of student program learning outcomes needs to be strengthened.

Council members discussed the certificates. For the undergraduate program, they recommended that the certificate be allowed to continue, but encouraged improvement of assessment. In discussion of the Graduate program, they considered the recommendations from the Graduate School. The lack of graduate-only courses in the certificate program is of great concern, especially in light of campus wide accreditation standards that require clear distinction between undergraduate and graduate curricula. Members discussed recruitment into the graduate program, and whether there are avenues to increase enrollment in the graduate certificate.

Members also discussed the special certificate. This is one of the few certificates on campus that students can complete entirely as a special student, which places it under the purview of the Division of Continuing Studies (DCS) for admission and as the Dean's office for these students. There is no information on the DCS website on the certificate or how to apply. Academic planning staff have followed up with DCS on this matter.

Members discussed the options for the review. Members approved a motion to accept the review as complete with the recommendation that the graduate program be discontinued and that information on how to apply to the special student certificate be made available.

Discussion:

5. Consultations of the Dean

The Dean provided an update on the project to update the L&S Undergraduate Degree Requirements. Dean Wilcots summarized the work of the L&S Curriculum Committee this year and will now be adjusting the pace and hitting pause to think about next steps. The plan is to charge a distinct group with the work of setting out principles and articulating requirements. This group will engage with the L&S community broadly. Committee members discussed structure, the need for transparency, and ways to create a representative committee. The goal is to end with degree requirements that are the right ones for the future.

The meeting adjourned at 2:32 pm.

Submitted by Kim Grocholski, Academic Planner.