

Brief Notes - approved 4/18/2023

College of Letters & Science Academic Planning Council

April 4, 2023, 1:00-2:30, 52 Bascom Hall

Chair: Eric Wilcots

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

Members Absent: Kristen Shook Slack

Observers: Cal Bergman, Kimbrin Cornelius, Greg Downey, Kristin Eschenfelder, Kim Grocholski, Elaine Klein, Ruth Litovsky, Shirin Malekpour, Gloria Marí-Beffa, Tina Nielsen, DeVon Wilson, Susan Zaeske

1. Program Review:

a. Undergraduate Certificate in Computer Sciences (CERT229)

Kristin Eschenfelder led the discussion. The certificate was established ten years ago and requires 14 credits. The curriculum is flexible and this is a high enrollment certificate. More women complete the certificate than the major, but both the certificate and major have the same proportion of targeted minority students. The Computer Sciences Department plans to more fully discuss DEI issues in the review of the BA/BS in Computer Science, which will be discussed by the APC next year. Other key issues are enrollment, course access, and assessment efforts. Computer Sciences is hiring more staff to try to address course access issues. Enrollment has declined recently, which may be due to new programs in data science.

Committee members discussed the report. The response rate to the student survey was low and members recommended that the department regard results with caution and consider using survey strategies to elicit more responses in the future. Committee members also discussed diversity and inclusion, advising resources, and the BC threshold grade to declare the certificate. For assessment, members recommended that the department focus on strengthening the assessment efforts and offered a motion to approve the review as complete with the recommendation that the department focus on assessment.

Members unanimously approved a motion to accept the review as complete.

b. Undergraduate Certificate in American Indian and Indigenous Studies (CERT110)

Greg Downey led the discussion. This is a small but important program at UW-Madison with a long history. The program was recently renamed. Faculty are tenured in other departments and the program hosts many campus cultural events, including an anniversary celebration this year. The self-study points to gentle growth, rebuilding the faculty, and working to keep the flow of faculty connections. Director and community have worked to create a program community drawn from campus tenured faculty. The program has also improved the availability and consistency of delivering indigenous languages, taught by native speakers. Areas of focus

include hiring and rebuilding the faculty profile and focusing on the annual assessment review. Committee members discussed the review, including the executive committee structure, unit structure, faculty hiring, and leadership of the program. Members also discussed the range of academic degrees students earn in combination with the certificate. It was recommended that the program better showcase the outreach and partnerships done by the unit across Wisconsin.

Members approved a motion to accept the review as complete.

2. Announcements/Information

There were a number of announcements:

- Congratulations to Provost Scholz on the new position; Dean Wilcots will serve as Interim Provost starting on April 24. Provost candidates are currently visiting campus;
- Congratulations to the faculty who have won 2023 Hilldale Awards, including two faculty in L&S: Sissel Schroeder (Anthropology) and Susan Cook (Mead Witter School of Music). These prestigious campus awards recognize their contributions to teaching, research, and service;
- Professor Daniel Cavanagh has been named the next director of the Mead Witter School of Music;
- Levy Hall is proceeding and the College is working on advanced planning for other buildings;
- A thank you reception for L&S APC and L&S CC will be scheduled later this spring;
- The L&S Staff appreciation event will be held on June 22 at the Madison Forward Soccer game;
- The newest episode of [L&S Exchange Podcast](#) has dropped;
- On Thursday, April 13 from 1:30-3, [Andrea Ghez, Professor of Physics and Astronomy](#) at UCLA will be on campus to discuss astronomy as part of the Chancellor investiture celebrations;
- Undergraduate admissions are underway and recruitment is going well.

3. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of notes – 3/21/2023

b. Request for Comment: University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, new B.S. in Environmental Science, Notice of Intent

Members approved the consent agenda.

4. Center Review: Mosse-Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies

Susan Zaeske led the discussion. This is an important review for this center that has a long history at UW-Madison. The center educates students and the community as well as holds events. The center is highly successful in gaining donor support. This was a holistic review of the center and a list of self-study questions was sent to the Center.

The self-study outlined strengths and opportunities including endowed professorships, curricular improvements, and the aspiration to seek department status. The self-study also identified several weaknesses including concerns about the governance structure, curricular

gaps, decreased enrollments, and insufficient staffing. The external committee echoed many of the same concerns in their report. The external review committee recommended the hiring of another staff member, thinking carefully about outreach events and connecting such events with students, addressing declining enrollments, creating a stronger student community, and revising the governance structure. The external review committee thought it was premature for the center to move to department status at this time.

SZ recommended the following, with an update due in six months, that the center should:

1. Address flaws in the governance structure and strongly consider the recommendation of the external review committee and L&S Academic Planning Council that it move to the three-tiered governance structure described in the self-study and external review. Future hiring authorizations should be withheld until the governance structure is improved.
2. Describe steps to improve center climate.
3. Articulate a clear process for cross-listing courses or removing a cross-listing from a course.
4. Submit a plan to improve the student experience, including course scheduling, advising, and creating a sense of community.
5. Finish and submit edits for the BA/BS in Jewish Studies Guide program pages through Lumen forms.
6. Develop strategies to increase enrollment.

Committee members discussed the self-study, review committee report, and recommendations. Members asked additional questions on the governance structure and role of the executive committee. There was also discussion of the center climate, faculty hiring, best practices surrounding governance, and teaching assignments. Members commended the center on the range of programming offered and encouraged the center to think of ways to integrate undergraduates into these events. A motion was made to accept the review as complete with the inclusion of the six recommendations by Zaeske.

Members unanimously accepted the review as complete with the inclusion of the recommendations by Associate Dean Zaeske.

Discussion

5. Consultations of the Dean

There were no items to discuss this week.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm.

Submitted by Kim Grocholski, Academic Planner.