29 April 2016 / MINOR REVISION 3 May 2016

TO: Sarah Mangelsdorf, Provost
FROM: John Karl Scholz, Dean
RE: Request to Restructure the Departments of History of Science and of History
CC: Cal Bergman, Associate Dean for Student Academic Affairs, L&S
     Marty Gustafson, Assistant Dean, Graduate School
     Florence Hsia, Professor and Chair, History of Science
     Elaine Klein, Associate Dean for Academic Planning, L&S
     Daniel Kleinman, Associate Dean, Graduate School
     Jocelyn Milner, Associate Provost and Director, Academic Planning and Analysis
     James Montgomery, Associate Dean for Fiscal Initiatives, L&S
     Scott Owczarek, Registrar
     Steven K. Smith, Secretary of the Faculty
     James Sweet, Professor and Chair, History
     Nancy Westphal-Johnson, Associate Dean for Academic Administration, L&S
     Susan Zaeske, Associate Dean for the Arts and Humanities, L&S

ATTACHMENT: Hsia and Sweet to Scholz, memorandum and “Plan to Implement Departmental Restructuring: History and History of Science” (14 April 2016)

On April 19, 2016, the L&S Academic Planning Council considered the attached plan to restructure the Departments of History of Science and of History, by merging these two excellent departments, to be effective July 1, 2017. History of Science has been discussing questions related to its structure since Spring 2014. After considerable deliberation within the department and with colleagues in History, the two departments requested and received formal permission to plan to restructure in January 2016. The attached plan represents the culmination of discussions that included faculty, staff, students and administrators and other colleagues and stakeholders.

When the APC met with the chairs, the council was pleased to learn of the exciting synergies made possible by this change. Not only will the change support the continued excellence of the academic programs, but the sustainable structure proposed supports UW-Madison’s leadership in humanistic and interpretive social science approaches to the study of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

As noted in the proposal, the name of the restructured unit will be “History.” The department will maintain all of the academic programs and subject listings currently managed by both departments. To effect this, the following changes are requested:

Move from History of Science to History:
Major Code 517: History of Science, Medicine and Technology (BA, BS, MA-History of Science, Medicine and Technology, PhD)
(GMIN517) PhD Minor in History of Science, Medicine and Technology
Major Code 504: History and History of History of Science, Medicine and Technology (BA, BS)
Subject Listing 456 “History of Science”

Maintain current History programs and listing:
Major Code 499 History (BS, BA, MA-History, and PhD)
(GMIN 499) PhD Minor in History
Subject listing #448 “History”

Maintain current History responsibilities vis a vis interdisciplinary academic programs:
History is also the administrative home that provides support for two interdisciplinary academic undergraduate certificates:
(203) Celtic Studies
(450) Medieval Studies
Subject listing #433, #633 “Medieval Studies”

All of the programs listed above are current with respect to program review. As noted in the final appendix, the faculty anticipates that changes in faculty profile will lead to changes to the academic program array, to the allocation of courses to each of subject listings 456 and 448, and to the nature of cross-listing that currently exists between these listings. (These changes will also address some programmatic discrepancies identified in the 2014 program reviews.) Detailed planning will begin after this plan is approved, with requests likely come before the L&S Curriculum Committee and Academic Planning Council no sooner than Fall 2017. As you know, L&S Academic Planning engages in discussions about program planning and change with departments in close consultation with the Graduate School, and Academic Planning and Institutional Research, and the department is already looking ahead to this process.

You will see from the materials provided that our colleagues have thought carefully about many aspects of faculty, staff, student, and departmental life and operations as they prepared these documents. Some details – such as the exact nature of opportunities and commitments between History and the Department of Medical History and Bioethics – remain to be finalized; however, we anticipate that the strong positive regard for this proposal, the strongly affirmative votes in support of it, and our conviction that this change will benefit both departments, will help us develop reasonable approaches to these outstanding matters.

The L&S APC approved this request unanimously, and we hope the restructuring can proceed at a pace that will allow for implementation by July 1, 2017. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me or my colleagues, Associate Deans Susan Zaeske and Elaine Klein.
14 April 2016

To: Karl Scholz, Dean of Letters & Science
Cc: Sue Zaeske, Associate Dean for Arts & Humanities
    Elaine M. Klein, Assistant Dean for Academic Planning

From: Florence Hsia, Chair, Department of History of Science
      Jim Sweet, Chair, Department of History

Dear Dean Scholz,

Pursuant to our Request to Plan Restructuring, submitted on January 12, 2016, and approved by L&S APC at its meeting of January 19, 2016, we are pleased to submit the attached Plan to Implement Restructuring. We believe that this merger of the departments of History of Science and History will build on the core mission and many current strengths of the Department of History by adding a broad portfolio of undergraduate and graduate teaching in History of Science, Medicine, and Technology; existing collaborations and potential opportunities to partner with other units on curricular initiatives in HSTM at the undergraduate, professional, and post-professional levels; a new graduate study program in History of Science, Medicine, and Technology, and new focus on multidisciplinary faculty research in the study of STEM.

We have developed this Plan to Implement along the principles outlined in the MOU attached to the Request to Plan, in consultation with our colleagues at regular departmental meetings. Updates on the Plan were shared with History’s Executive Committee at its meeting on February 15, 2016, and with History’s Faculty Council, the Director of Undergraduate Studies, the Director of Graduate Studies, and the incoming Chair on March 1, 2016. The final version was discussed on April 5, 2016 at a dedicated History of Science departmental meeting, and was approved by the History of Science department as a whole (9 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention) and its Executive Committee (5-0-0, with 5 members out of 8 present and voting). Similarly, the final version was approved by the Department of History (34-0-0) at its meeting on April 11, 2016.

Sincerely,

Florence C. Hsia
Professor and Chair, History of Science

Jim Sweet
Professor and Chair, Department of History