BRIEF NOTES – approved on April 7, 2015
College of Letters and Science Academic Planning Council
Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., 101 South Hall

Chair: Karl Scholz
Members present: Matt Turner, Jan Edwards, Dan Kapust, Brian Hyer, Harry Brighouse, Jennifer Noyes, Clark Turner, Diane Gooding
Observers present: Anne Gunther, Nancy Westphal-Johnson, Gery Essenmacher, James Montgomery, Greg Downey, Elaine Klein, Susan Zaeske
Members absent: Angela Powell, Anna Gemrich

1. Announcements. KS noted candidates for the Vice Chancellor for Research are giving public presentations this week, and encouraged member to attend.

2. Approval of notes – March 3, 2015. Approved by all members present at the March 3 meeting.

3. New Academic Programs (a) Geography: Proposal to create a new option, MS-Cartography/GIS, “GIS Development.” Guests: Professors Lisa Naughton and A-Xing Zhu. GD led discussion. The program is professional-oriented, in the field of giving professional level support for GIS software/programming. It will be entirely online; students may complete in one year, or have the choice to take longer. Faculty will rotate through required courses to keep them updated, but not in a way that will diminish instruction for undergraduates. In discussion, members wondered about possibilities for scaling the program up to meet demand. AZ indicated initial scaling up will likely be by offering all courses each semester, and enlarging them with additional TAs. This could double initial enrollment. Beyond that, a deeper discussion would be needed, to ensure the program remains integrated within the department. Members wondered, could the program be offered with fewer resources in the department? LN indicated this hasn’t been identified by Geography’s budget committee as a concern, and revenue from program could potentially offset cuts. Members asked if some PhD students may want to enter this program instead. AZ indicated while some students could potentially enter the PHD program with professional interests, the program is not designed for that. Members approved the proposal to create a new option, MS-Cartography/GIS, “GIS Development” (one abstention, MT).

b. Slavic: Request to Create New Undergraduate Certificate in East European Language, Literature and Culture. SZ led discussion. Slavic is proposing the new 15 credit certificate in response to student interest and to increase enrollments in language and literature courses. Members wondered if student interest in a language certificate is sufficient to justify creating a new program. They also asked if students are interested in culture and literature courses, or if their expressed interest focuses on language acquisition and certification. SZ noted understanding culture and literature is an important part of learning new languages; NWJ also observed that the department may not have instructional capacity to teach additional language courses. Members asked whether budget constraints render it necessary to have very strong rationales to create new programs. In this case, if the department loses several lines, can it still staff the program? If some languages rely on only one instructor, how would the program continue if a key member of the faculty or instructional staff were to leave? Members tabled the request, and directed SZ to seek more information about how the proposed program could be offered in the face of budget cuts.
4. **Academic Program Review (a) Philosophy.** SZ led discussion. The department is a well-functioning unit she often looks to for best practices. Graduate students are well-placed. The department serves undergraduates across L&S and other colleges, and teaches Comm B, QRA, and QRB courses. Two key review recommendations involve improving assessment, which appears to be very course-specific, with little inquiry into student learning at the program level. The department is currently defining program-level learning outcomes, and when these are ready, will work to design assessment strategies to measure them. Members also wondered about increasing flexibility concerning enrollment limits in graduate seminars. SZ noted there are flexibilities offered by L&S, which allows departments to balance large and small enrollment courses. Finally, members wondered about the lack of an articulated path through the undergraduate curriculum, as indicated by Advanced level courses with no prerequisites. The department is discussing the possibility of adding mid-level courses. **Members approved the motion to accept the report as complete** (one abstention, HB).

b. **Integrated Studies in Science, Engineering & Society Certificate.** GD led discussion. The certificate is about four years old, and is administered by the Holtz Center for Science and Technology Studies. The program is targeted at helping engineering students fulfill general education requirements in humanities and social sciences in a meaningful way, and connecting students to faculty in these areas. About six students complete the certificate per year. They are assessing student learning through exit interview and reviewing writing artifacts, comparing samples from student applications to students’ exit essays. Committee members admired the assessment work, and praised the review as excellent. **The motion to accept the review as complete was unanimously approved by committee members.**

c. **Comparative Literature and Folklore Studies (i). Proposal to Rename Academic Programs (BA/BS, MA, PhD), Major Code 225, from “Comparative Literature” to “Comparative Literature and Folklore Studies”; (ii.) Proposal to Create New Options in CLFS Graduate Programs, “Comparative Literature” and “Folklore Studies”** Guest, Rob Howard, Professor and Chair. RH summarized the request to align the names of the undergraduate and graduate programs to reflect the name of this merged department. The proposal will allow students to connect with faculty who have similar interests, and to foster a new environment where both students and faculty can explore comparative humanities in new ways. Members wondered if the creation of “CL” and “FS” options will have the undesirable effect of segregating students and faculty by interest area; RH noted that the proposal reflects a compromise that will allow graduate students to advertise specialization to the job market while also allowing students to take advantage of strengths in both areas. (Which could also be a benefit in the job market.) Overall, the department continues to move toward better integration of the disciplines. **Members unanimously approved the proposed changes.**

5. **Request for L&S Comment: CALS, MS-Agricultural and Applied Economics,“Certificate in Resource and Energy Demand Analysis.”** Members unanimously voted to support the proposal.

6. **Consultations of the Dean.** No discussion items. KS noted that the final council meeting, the end of the year dinner event, has been rescheduled for May 14.

**Meeting adjourned 2:51 pm,** Notes submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius.