L&S APC Brief Notes – approved 12/20/2017
December 6, 2016, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m., 1220 AB DeLuca Biochemical Sciences Building, 440 Henry Mall
L&S Chair: Karl Scholz
L&S Members present: Heather Allen, Charles Fry, Shirin Malekpour, Louise Mares, Marisa Otegui, Daniel Quint, Laura McClure
L&S Members absent: Clark Landis, Daniel Kapust
L&S Observers present: Greg Downey, Elaine Klein, James Montgomery, Susan Ellis Weismer, Sue Zaeske, Nancy Westphal-Johnson, Eric Wilcots, Kimbrin Cornelius

JOINT L&S and CALS portion of the meeting:
1. Welcome and Introductions a. Review agenda b. Revisions to current agenda (none)

2. Joint Discussion and Action a. Biology Core Curriculum Request to Extend Honors Designation to Students in Other Schools and Colleges. L&S members unanimously approved the motion to support the request to allow students from other schools/college to receive the honors designation. b. Zoology Name Change (2nd discussion). Jeff Hardin, Chair, Zoology guest. EW noted that Zoology is one of the only “Zooology” departments in the country, and has been struggling to find a new name that can describe the breadth of scholarship and teaching that occurs within the department. Only the department name would change, not programs or subject listings. During joint CALS and L&S member discussion, the main points of concerns were regarding one department having such a ‘broad’ name, and whether the department might later also submit a name change to the undergraduate Zoology program. EW and JH noted that the research mission of the Zoology department is already extremely broad (molecular/cell biology as well as animal biology). There is precedent nationally for broadly named “Integrative Biology” departments a separate from more narrowly focused departments, including at institutions that have agricultural colleges. JH also reiterated that the department does not wish to change their mission or focus. Regarding program names, the breadth of biology in the Zoology department can be seen by reviewing the programs it administers - Molecular Biology, Biology, Zoology, and Neurobiology; however, a name constructed of a long list of narrowly defined subdisciplines is unwieldy. Reiterating that the department does not intend to change its mission or its relationship with CALS, JH noted that the Biology major is a great example of excellent collaboration and cooperation between L&S and CALS biology units, and they do not wish to make any undergraduate major name changes that could jeopardize this very successful partnership. L&S Members unanimously approved the request to rename the Zoology department “Integrative Biology;” Dean Scholz will share the proposal with other schools and colleges and solicit their comment on it prior to forwarding the request to UAPC.

c. LA/URPL Merger Proposal (2nd discussion). Guests: Ken Genskow, John Harrington Sam Dennis. KG, JH, and SD provided a brief overview of the proposal. The delineation between landscape architecture and urban planning has become much less distinct, which is reflected in this merger. All of the faculty and staff would belong to one merged department in L&S. The degrees will be moved into the newly merged department, but otherwise would not change. Stakeholders and students have been extensively consulted and included in these discussions, and are supportive of the move. In L&S discussion, members agreed that this merger could provide excellent opportunities for the department. They wondered about the budget practicalities of permanently moving faculty and staff lines to a new college. KS responded this has been discussed but not yet been finalized with CALS. The L&S APC unanimously approved the request for the department merger, contingent on a satisfactory agreement between the colleges about how the budget lines will be transferred.
3. Academic Program Review: 5-year review, Undergraduate Major in Environmental Sciences. (Guest: Professor Nick Blaster). NB provided a brief overview of the program and the review. The major is very popular, and has exceeded expectations for success. To date, 104 students have completed the program. NB noted that enrollment of targeted populations is improving, and it is an area where they will continue to focus. The cross-college aspect of the program has been an immense benefit, and is a key part of its identity. One challenge is providing a capstone to a large number of students. In joint L&S and CALS discussion, members wondered about time to degree data. NB noted that students’ time to degree is similar to other programs nationally. Still, though, the program continues to learn how better to advise students. They are also hoping to change the advising model to ensure all students have good access to the staff advisor, as well as faculty advisors. L&S members unanimously approved the motion to accept the report as complete, and to communicate to the Provost L&S support of program continuation.

Added agenda item: Biocore Honors designation for students outside of L&S and CALS

L&S APC SESSION (1220AB DeLuca Biochemical Sciences)
1. Announcements and Informational Items: a. APC meeting on December 20 (Confirm quorum)
2. Consent Agenda a. Approval of notes, November 15, 2016 b. Request for Comment on New Programs – UW System i. UW-Milwaukee: MA in TESOL ii. UW-Oshkosh: conversion of in-person Master of Public Administration to online format iii. UW-Green Bay: BS in Freshwater Science Consent agenda approved unanimously.

3. Request for Comment on New Program: Nelson Institute: Master’s Option, Environmental Observation and Informatics (non-pooled tuition program). KS noted we would normally expect 131-programs to be self-contained, or have memorandums of understanding if other departments will be teaching courses. In this case, Statistics will likely do the work of creating an online statistics course and teaching it. Geography may also teach a course. MOUs have not yet been created, but Statistics and Geography are otherwise supportive. Members wondered, could this affect opportunities for undergraduates to take Statistics to take courses? EW noted that is unlikely – in the example of Statistics, the program would compensate additional STS or lecturer time to teach the course. Members unanimously approved a motion to support creation of the program, with the understanding that Nelson and L&S will continue to work on MOUs for required L&S courses, to ensure that departments are compensated for teaching.

4. Action Items: a. Asian Languages and Cultures: Request to Revise Undergraduate Program in Languages and Cultures of Asia: (Major Code 597) i. Rename Academic Program (to “Asian Languages and Culture”) ii. Create Three New Named Options: East Asian Studies, Southeast Asian Studies, South Asian Studies iii. Resume Admission to Major 597 (effective Fall 2018). Guests: Junko Mori, Professor and Chair, Asian Cultures and Languages, and Steve Ridgely, Chair, Asian Cultures and Languages. Members were very supportive of these changes, arising from the restructuring of the department. Members unanimously approved a motion to revise the undergraduate program, create new named options, and resume admission to the undergraduate. b. Institute for Regional and International Studies (Center for East Asian Studies, Center for Southeast Asian Studies): Suspend Admission to and Discontinue Undergraduate Major in Asian Studies (Major Code 092, effective Fall 2018). Members unanimously approved a motion to suspend admission to and discontinue the undergraduate major in Asian studies, effective Fall 2018.

c. Request to create new Subject Listing, German, Nordic, Slavic (GNS). EMK noted that the new subject listing will house courses that students in all programs could benefit from. It should create both
administrative efficiencies and opportunities to collaborate. Members unanimously approved a motion to create a new subject listing, German, Nordic, Slavic (GNS).

d. Preview of upcoming requests: Material Cultures Graduate Certificate; PhD-Art History, Option in Architectural History

5. L&S Reviews

a. Academic Programs: i. African Languages & Literature (programs since renamed, African Cultural Studies) SZ led discussion. She noted that this is one of the best African Studies department in the world. They have recently remade themselves by renaming the department. They will need to continue to communicate their revised focus on cultural studies to students, update courses and course descriptions, and update their website. In conversation, members agreed that the department is excellent, and engaged in exciting work in defining a new direction. Members spent some time discussing their concern about junior faculty creating large enrollment courses and having heavy advising loads – and advised the department to ensure they were protecting junior faculty’s ability to focus on tenure-related work. They also advised the department that their assessment plan and work needs attention. Members unanimously approved the motion to accept the report as complete.

b. Preview of upcoming reviews: Zoology Graduate Programs, Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies.

Meeting adjourned 3:20 pm.
Notes submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, Curriculum Administration Specialist