APC Brief Notes
Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m., 101 South Hall Approved 4/4/2017

Chair: Karl Scholz
Members present: Heather Allen, Charles Fry, Daniel Kapust, Clark Landis, Shirin Malekpour, Louise Mares, Marisa Otegui, Laura McClure, Daniel Quint
Observers present: Greg Downey, Anne Gunther, Elaine Klein, James Montgomery, Susan Ellis Weismer, Nancy Westphal Johnson, Eric Wilcots, Kimbrin Cornelius, Cal Bergman, Devon Wilson

1. Announcements and Informational Items. UAPC approved requests to revise and create programs: changes to programs in ACL, ACS, History and History of Science, East European, Health and Humanities, Slavic Nordic German, thanks to Sue and Elaine. JM has been working to develop MOUs with other units so their programs can use L&S courses, particularly ESL courses (see other notes).


3. Action Items: a. (Old Business) Request to Create New Center: Economics, Center for Research on the Wisconsin Economy. GD led discussion. He noted this was the second discussion, and that the revised proposal included information the APC requested. Council members approved this proposal with one abstention (DQ).

b. Request to Restructure Program / Unit: Department of Linguistics. Guest: Eric Raimy, Professor of English and Chair, Linguistics. SZ led conversation. The proposal would close the department of Linguistics, but develop a governance structure to allow an interdisciplinary program in Language Science to continue. The proposed Language Science program committee would assume responsibility for all current Linguistics programs, academic structures, and resources. Members discussed whether it makes more sense to enlarge the department but include faculty from other areas; however, prior APC discussion noted that FP&P limits the extent to which faculty outside a department may participate long-term in department life. The goal is to have faculty from across many departments participate in a department-like body; these faculty would have permanent governance status. This approach would allow the unit to behave as much like a department as possible, without requiring faculty who do not want to move their tenure home to participate. One benefit of this approach is to leverage the shared vision of language science across campus, which will be the main mission of the program, building collaboration across units that currently study language science, and creating room for additional humanities fields to participate. In discussion, members noted that new faculty are excited about this collaboration, and that this will foster more collaborations with regard to mentoring graduate students. It will also help the undergraduate program, since students will have a wider choice of courses from across many departments. Language departments will also be better able to collaborate when offering linguistics courses, which could be offered more efficiently where the material does not need to be language-specific. Members were most excited about the prospect of increased collaboration between sciences and humanities, in which undergraduates are particularly interested. A motion to approve this proposal was unanimously approved.

c. Request to Create New L&S Course Designation: Language Level and Retrocredit Eligibility. Guest: Dr. Dianna Murphy, Associate Director of the UW-Madison Language Institute. SZ led discussion, inviting DM to describe to the council how L&S undergraduates and advisors must seek information from a
variety of sources to understand if and how courses may meet the L&S Foreign Language requirement, as well as whether courses are eligible to carry “retrocredits,” which award advanced standing credit to students who meet certain requirements. The current system is fragile, relying on spreadsheets; concerns about these falling out of date or out of synch with DARS led to a proposal to create a more systematic way to designate how specific courses meet requirements. This result will be more transparent to students and advisors, showing how courses meet the foreign language requirements, as well as if courses convey retroactive credit. The proposal represents noteworthy collaboration across all language departments; it will call upon existing governance procedures for assigning course attributes; and should be able to be programmed into the new online course proposal system that is currently being designed. Council members unanimously and enthusiastically approved this proposal.

4. Low Enrollment Certificate Program Review: Graduate Certificate in Material Cultures
SZ led discussion of this low enrollment graduate certificate shared by Design Studies (SoHE) and Art History (L&S). Council members noted significant resources invested, which don’t seem to be aligned with student interest. Both departments report increased faculty interest and capacity to offer courses, which could generate more student interest. Council members asked if there are other ways to offer this program with fewer resources, and if its director is aware of and engaging all disciplines that could contribute (e.g., Anthropology, Library and Information Studies, Engineering). Members noted that the program has always been below the low-enrollment threshold, and unanimously approved a motion to suspend admission to the program with the requirement that to reopen admission, the council must approve a detailed request to reopen by May 2018 (submission of materials due by April 1, 2018). The request should include detailed information (e.g., committee membership, governance structure and procedures for managing the cross-college program, current requirements, learning outcomes, etc). If the L&S APC does not approve the proposal, the program should be discontinued.

5. Discussion and Consultations of the Dean. JKS noted the Faculty Senate’s approval of the new post tenure review policy, and provided an overview of past L&S practice for such reviews. The new policy will require APC consideration of college-level procedures that may complement the campus policy.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm
Notes submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, L&S Admin