BRIEF NOTES – Approved 19 September 2017
College of Letters and Science Academic Planning Council
Tuesday, May 2, 2016, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m., 101 South Hall

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

1. Announcements and Informational Items. KS thanked committee members who are completing their service to the L&S APC this term: Dan Quint, Marisa Otegui, Louise Mares, and Laura McClure.
   a. Updates on Prior APC Actions. The UAPC approved the request to rename the Zoology department to Integrative Biology, to merge Landscape Architecture and URPL, and to rename School of Library and Information Science to Information School.  b. APC Dinner, 5/16/2017

2. Consent Agenda  a. Approval of notes – April 4, 2017  b. Request for Comment on New Programs – UW System  i. UW-Stevens Point, BS in Geographic Information Systems. Geography is supportive  c. Request for Comment - UW-Madison School of Human Ecology, request to change name of Center for Integrative Design (to “Center for Design and Material Culture”) Members approved the consent agenda.

3. Action Items: a. Request to Suspend Admission: African Cultural Studies Doctoral Program “Pedagogy Track” SZ led discussion. Suspending admission to the track does not require APC approval because it is not an approved program. However, graduate students are specifically admitted into it, and it has articulated requirements. This request formalizes the department decision to close admissions the track; the department will remove information about it from the website and Guide. Members supported the department’s decision to cease recruiting students into the track while they assess the track’s feasibility, and whether it should be reopened or closed permanently.

4. Academic Program Review: Comparative Literature and Folklore Studies, BA/BS, MA, Ph.D. SZ led discussion. She provided context about significant changes in the department during the last several years, including several faculty retirements, new hires, and the merger of Comparative Literature with Folklore Studies. The external review identified several substantial issues, including a lack of integration between Folklore Studies and Comparative Literature faculty, a long time-to-degree in the graduate program, low enrollment in the undergraduate program, and a leadership void that creates difficulties in mentoring junior faculty and finding chairs. In addition, although the Comparative Literature undergraduate program was named “Comparative Literature and Folklore Studies,” the faculty have not been able to modify the program to create a common curriculum that reflects both comparative literature and folklore studies.

During discussion, members agreed that the external review was excellent and supported the recommendations. Members were concerned about the current status of the department and its programs, and discussion focused on the future direction of the department, and how best to move this unit forward, while protecting students enrolled in its programs and supporting the excellent assistant professors in the department. Ultimately members accepted a motion to consider the program review complete, and convey to the dean and department the following priorities:
• The Comparative Literature faculty and affiliates must submit a plan to restructure the department and programs. The process for planning would ideally include an expanded group of interested faculty. Members stressed the urgency of addressing the issues articulated in the external review, and advised the Dean to assign a deadline that requires the department to do so in a relatively short timeframe.
• Given the lack of integration of Comparative Literature and Folklore faculty, the restructuring should include moving the Folklore Certificate to a new home;
• Admissions for the programs offered by the department should be closed until the department has an approved plan to restructure and the programs are renamed.
• The department should consider how to assess and improve student learning, and in particular incorporate direct assessment into its assessment plan.

5. Discussion and Consultations of the Dean

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm
Notes submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, L&S Administration