AGENDA
College of Letters and Science Academic Planning Council
L&S APC Brief Notes – approved, 10/17/2018
Tuesday, October 10, 2017, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m., 101 South Hall
Chair: Eric Wilcots
Members present: Dan Kapust, Stephen Kantrowitz, Jana Valeo, Shirin Malekpour, Michael Wagner, Heather Allen, Ruth Litovsky, Clark Landis, Charles Fry, Louise Mares
Observers: Greg Downey, James Montgomery, Kimbrin Cornelius, Elaine Klein, Sue Zaeske, Anne Gunther

1. Announcements and Informational Items. EW noted the grand opening of Alumni Park this weekend.

2. Consent Agenda a. Approval of notes – September 19, 2017. Committee members accepted the notes.

3. Action Items: a. Economics: Request to Approve an Academic Collaboration between UW-Madison Department of Economics and the Chinese University of Hong Kong – Shenzhen JM first provided a brief overview of 131, or ‘revenue-generating’ programs. These capstone or masters programs are often more applied than traditional programs and serve a new population of students. Typically, paid tuition goes to a central campus tuition pool, however, revenue-generating program tuition goes to the department (with some L&S and campus overhead subtracted). Departments cover all costs of the program with the generated revenue. These programs are held to the same governance processes as other programs, and meet all standards of our traditional programs.
GD led discussion about the Economics request, regarding their large and successful revenue-generating program. This request formalizes the intent to articulate a clear pathway for students seeking to complete two distinct master’s programs both here at our Economics department and at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. The MOA describes how both universities and department will communicate about curriculum and program information to students, and how they will jointly market their programs. Members understood the request does not change our existing program, nor does it imply any authority of our program would be shared. It will allow for efficiencies in advising these students, and in transferring courses between the departments. However, each university will determine the students they are admitting into their program, and will maintain their own curriculum. Members agreed this request will help the departments at both universities formalize treatment of issues that might otherwise happen on an ad-hoc basis, and that this will be beneficial to students. Members unanimously approved the motion to support the proposal.

b. Political Science: Request to Suspend Admission to the International Politics and Practice Capstone Certificate. GD led discussion. The IPPCC certificate is an online capstone certificate intended for students in active duty military that are interested in foreign policy and international relations. The program is not drawing the enrollment anticipated, and instruction was more expensive that initially determined. The department requested a suspension of admission to consider how to address these challenges, and how to structure the program to best accomplish the certificate’s intended goals. In conversation, members expressed
appreciation that the department is attending to these issues, and agreed that suspending admissions while determining the best next steps will serve students well. Members approved the request (DK abstained).

4. Academic Program Review a. Botany: Graduate Programs. EW led discussion. He noted that the department typically has about 50 graduate students, and admits 5-10 students per year. The program attracts high quality students, including high quality under-represented students. Members commended the thoughtfulness of the self-study, and agreed with many of the strengths and challenges articulated by the department. In conversation, members identified as their strongest concern inconsistencies in the graduate experience for individual students, and the degree to which requirements were made explicit to students. More generally, members agreed this issue is vital to all departments with graduate programs, and L&S should consider directing departments to address this area as part of their graduate program review process. Members also noted that these issues tend to be fully within the department’s control (unlike other issues, such as TA funding, that may also be controlled by external forces). Regarding assessment, members were pleased to see the department is collecting assessment data, but encouraged the department to summarize and analyze this information to direct efforts for future improvements. Members accepted the report as complete.

5. (2:00 p.m.) Closed Session to Discuss Personnel Matters, per Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(c). Elected and Appointed Members will meet with the Committee conducting Dean Scholz’ Five-Review. Members adjourned into private session.

Notes submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, L&S Curricular Specialist