APC Brief Notes  
Tuesday, April 4, 2017, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m., 101 South Hall – approved 5/2/2017

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: Kimbrin Cornelius, Greg Downey, Anne Gunther, Elaine Klein, James Montgomery, Susan Ellis Weismer, Nancy Westphal Johnson, Eric Wilcots, Devon Wilson, Sue Zaeske

1. Welcome and Announcements. L&S and CALS members introduced themselves. (No announcements)
2. Academic Program review for Urban and Regional Planning. (Guests Ken Genskow, Professor and Chair, Mark Rickenbach, review committee member) GD led discussion. He provided context that URPL successfully completed their accreditation review process in 2015, and the program was reaccredited. This program review incorporates work from that process, and accreditor’s feedback. The review report commended the department in the quality of programs and opportunities for students, with recommendations including creating a strategic plan, implementing more direct assessment, and increasing focus on recruiting a diverse body of students. Work in these areas, as well as any advice given by the APC will continue to be relevant and important in a future restructured department (with Landscape Architecture). Both the self-study and the review committee report raise issues of gender equity and climate. Given these findings, KG said, the department formed a climate committee to address the identified concerns. Students also provided a formal response to the program review regarding these issues, which was circulated to APC members. Since receiving the student response, KG has also contacted Title IX, Diversity and Equity, and HR for professional and objective assistance in addressing these issues. Members agreed the situation needs immediate action, and had conversation about how to ensure the department is a safe, equitable, and civil space for students, faculty and staff. They were heartened to see action is already underway; the department self-identified the issue, is openly discussing the problem, and has engaged outside expertise for help. KG noted that the merger is providing an opportune moment to carefully review and revisit all faculty policies and procedures. Revising policies and procedures will also support change in the climate. The merger also provides a benefit of increasing gender diversity. Members accepted the report as complete. Members agreed with the recommendations in the student document as advisory, and endorsed use of campus resources (Office of Diversity and Equity, Human Resources, Office of Compliance, and Office of Quality Improvement). They requested a follow-up report on this issue in one year, to be submitted to the relevant college dean and APC addressing climate issues and actions taken.

4. Informational Item (for CALS): Informational Item, Proposal to Establish L&S Center for Research on the Wisconsin Economy. KS and GD provided an update on the proposal to create a new center for CALS members.

L&S only:  
6. Academic Program Review: a. Computer Science Programs (BA/BS, MS-Computer Sciences, Ph.D) EW provided a summary of points in the self-study and review. Undergraduate course enrollment and number of majors has dramatically increased in the department. Their role as a service department to other areas is also expanding - about 70% of introductory computer science courses are taken by students outside of Computer Science. EW noted they are now in alignment with typical enrollment for
a large science departments in L&S, as this increase comes on the heels of very low enrollments. Some faculty have voiced concern about the level and quality of courses given how much bigger classes are. However, graduates continue to have excellent job placement in a related field, and high rates of acceptance into graduate schools. Their major is well organized, and students require few exceptions. One of their major goals going forward is recruiting a more diverse student body.

Members appreciated the department’s honest reflection on their 131 offerings, and whether it is affecting the existing undergraduate and graduate programs. EW noted this is especially relevant for Computer Sciences; the high demand for employees with Computer Science training makes it difficult to recruit outstanding staff instructors. Members agreed that 131 programs can also provide benefits to other programs (funding faculty or staff hires, as one example), however vigilance is necessary to ensure it is not detracting from the other programs.

Members agreed the report was thoughtful and clear, and noted the learning outcomes were well crafted. They commended the department for not adding entrance requirements to the undergraduate major at a time of increased enrollments; barrier-free admission will support the department’s efforts to increase diversity in the program. They also commended the department for offering courses that allow students outside of the major to pursue learning in Computer Science. **Members unanimously approved a motion to accept the report as complete.**

7. **Action Item: a. Request to Discontinue Undergraduate Certificate in Global Cultures.** Admissions was suspended three years ago. There were three years for the sponsor or programs to submit a proposal to restructure or open, but nothing was submitted. **Members unanimously approved a motion to discontinue the certificate.**

8. **Consultations: a. Request for Comment: Draft UW-Madison Credit Hour Policy.** EMK led discussion. UW Madison does not currently have a credit hour policy; adoption of one will bring campus into alignment with assumed practices set by the Higher Learning Commission. Members were surprised that such a policy does not currently exist, and expressed appreciation that it was inclusive of courses outside of traditional modes of instruction. Members’ only feedback was regarding language that implies all course syllabi must be reviewed during program review. Members agreed that reviewing a sample of syllabi would be good practice, but reviewing all syllabi during program review would be unreasonable.

b. **External Chairs for L&S Departments.** KS updated the council that an external chair has been appointed to Spanish and Portuguese. The department was unable to elect a chair this year, and deep divisions in the department have led to contentious issues with faculty, staff, and graduate students. Jim Sweet, former Chair of History, was appointed as chair for a minimum of two years.

Meeting adjourned 3:10
Notes submitted by Kimbrin Cornelius, L&S Administration