

CALS ACADEMIC PLANNING COUNCIL

October 17, 2017

1:00 PM-2:30 PM

1220AB DeLuca Biochemical Sciences Building, 440 Henry Mall

Present: Brian Kirkpatrick, Katherine Curtis, Bret Shaw, Jeri Barak-Cunningham, Patrick Krysan, Guy Groblewski, Karen Wassarman, Joe Lauer, Alan Turnquist

Absent: John Shutske, Doug Soldat, Tim Van Deelen, Marv Wickens, Jon Roll

Ex Officio: Dick Straub, Bill Barker, Angie Seitler, Nikki Bollig

Guests: Shawn Kaeppler, Shigeki Miyamoto, Sharon Long, Steve Ventura

Minutes: Megan Grill

Kate called the meeting to order at 12:58 pm

Introductions

No changes to current agenda

Karen moved to approve minutes from October 3rd meeting as drafted; Jeri seconded; unanimously approved

Consent Agenda

1. Closure of Land Information & Computer Graphics Facility (LICGF) Center

No discussion or objections; approved by consent

Action and Discussion Items

1. Proposal to Establish Wisconsin Crop Innovation Center (WCIC) as an Approved Campus Center

The WCIC will support a research initiative in advanced crop genetics. The facility, located in Middleton, was donated by Monsanto and is valued at 15 million dollars. This donation is a result of 3 years of effort and 2 years of conversation with Monsanto, who donated the facility in December of 2016. This facility will allow the university to expand greenhouse facilities by 50% and will more than triple this type of research available in the US.

Since there are partners from across departments and campus involved in the research that will be conducted at the facility, administratively it makes sense to establish this as an official center housed in CALS. Campus requires that we establish formal procedures for governance, finances, staffing, space, and routine

evaluation. Shawn Keappler will serve as the center director, and a faculty and external advisory committee will evaluate the center operations.

Committee discusses Monsanto's motivation for donating the building, Monsanto's claim to intellectual property resulting from the research, and the status of the building. Monsanto is centralizing operations in St. Louis, and due to the specialized nature of the facility, the building can only serve as a research facility. If Monsanto sold the building, it likely would have resulted in a competitor purchasing it, so they opted for the tax benefit that results from donating the building. Monsanto made the donation without strings attached and have been supportive throughout the process. The research done in this facility is no more likely to result in intellectual property infringement than in any other research facility. The facility and equipment are in good condition. There are still questions about how to manage the facility, with the electrical bill as the highest operating cost. There are opportunities to submit grants, and potentially lease out meeting space to help cover some of these costs. More revenue producing activities will be sought to manage operating costs with the goal of becoming financially independent.

Patrick moved to accept the proposal and forward it onto UAPC, Bret seconded; unanimously approved

2. Program Review: Molecular and Environmental Toxicology

The programs under review are the Molecular and Environmental Toxicology (MET) MS and PhD. Both programs are jointly offered by CALS, SMPH, and Pharmacy. SMPH facilitated the review process, and SMPH APC accepted the review as complete in September. Pharmacy APC will see the review this semester.

Shigeki Miyamoto, professor in Oncology and review committee chair, and Sharon Long, CALS representative, presented the review findings. Chris Bradfield, program director, will be available for questions at the November 7th meeting, when this item is brought back to APC for a second review.

Overall, the programs are strong. Students and alumni feel a sense of community despite the fact that students are spread out across campus. Courses are also strong, and the program director and program administrator are considered strengths as well.

One weakness is the lack of transition plan should the program director leave the program or go on sabbatical. The program administrator is also considered a strength, but much has been added to his plate due to position vacancies. The handbook also requires updating. There is also concern about the program's financial viability if the T25 grant is not awarded during the current renewal request.

Committee discusses the consistency of teaching and training required of students. Nikki Bollig will forward the committee's questions to Chris Bradfield in preparation for the November 7th meeting.

3. Draft Faculty Mentoring Guidelines

In response to some program reviews and the USDA Civil Rights review, a small committee was asked to create a draft of Faculty Mentoring Guidelines. Ken Raffa, Guna, and Jane Collins served on the committee. These guidelines are not intended to be policy and can be revised in the future.

APC members were asked to answer whether or not the document should address obligations of the mentee. APC thinks that it would be beneficial to have expectations for the mentee and suggestions for assistance if the mentor relationships are not working. The document could outline a process by which mentees could provide feedback.

APC members were asked how to structure mentor committees that involve 2 or more departments/schools/colleges. The mentor committee could be comprised of tenured faculty that represent each department/school/college. APC notes that there is no number of mentor committee members specified in the document and made a suggestion to include a minimum of 3 members, in addition to the chair serving as ex officio.

APC also recommends edits to the language related to guiding the details of research, teaching, etc., to clarify that the mentor committee is not expected to prescribe the direction of research and teaching, but allow for academic freedom. Academic freedom is stated in other policies on campus, so it is not necessary to call it out specifically here.

Edits to the document will be made and this will return as a future agenda item.

4. Budget Overview

Angie and Dick provided an overview on faculty retirements, resignations, retentions, and the proposed resource allocation model of returning 50% of funds to a department for a vacant faculty FTE.

More information related to this will be discussed at the all college meeting next week.

5. Food Systems Certificate Proposal

A plan to develop interdisciplinary food systems courses has been underway since 2015. Kate and Sarah opted to fund Intro, Intermediate, and Advanced (or capstone) food systems courses. Steve Ventura, of the Soil Science department,

and Alan Turnquist, from Agroecology, have been leading the effort to develop a Food Systems Certificate. Patrick Krysan, is working with others on related efforts to create a Food Systems Major.

This proposal has not yet gone before CALS Curriculum Committee and will return to APC after CALS Curriculum Committee has had an opportunity to review and provide feedback.

Many departments have had an opportunity to weigh in and there is a broad recognition of the need for a certificate in Food Systems. Some departmental suggestions have already been incorporated, and others may be evaluated by a program committee if the certificate is created.

The certificate will be available to students across campus, but C&E Soc will serve as the administrative home. The certificate cannot be housed in Agroecology because it is not a department. Questions were raised about the current status of the advanced-level course.

Informational Items and Announcements

6. Summary of CALS Diversity Activities

Kate handed out the summary of what has been done related to the Equity and Diversity Committee. Dick announced the Lunch and Learn organized by the EDC will be held on Monday, October 30th in 1520 Biochemical Sciences Building

7. All College Meeting is Scheduled for October 24th from 9-10:30 am in Upper Carson Gulley

Meeting adjourned at 2:33 pm