

CALS ACADEMIC PLANNING COUNCIL - MINUTES

March 5, 2019

1:00pm-2:30pm

2321 DeLuca Biochemical Sciences Meeting

Attendees: Erika Anna, Jeri Barak, Jane Collins, Guy Groblewski, Barb Ingham, Chuck Kaspar, Rick Lindroth (arrived at 2:11pm), Paul Mitchell, Nicole Perna, Dietram Scheufele (departed at 2:13pm), Doug Soldat, Alan Turnquist

Not present: Hasan Khatib, William Tracy

Ex officio: Dick Straub, Karen Wassarman, Doug Reinemann (arrived at 1:20pm), Sundaram Gunasekaran (arrived at 1:24pm and departed at 2:00pm)

Guests: Patty McManus (Plant Pathology program review), Ken Genskow (Environmental Resources Center discontinuation), Jennifer Blazek (FISC certificates)

Minutes taken by: Julie Scharm

Public meeting attendees: None

The meeting was called to order by Dick Straub at approximately 1:00pm.

Review agenda

No changes were made to the agenda. Jeri Barak made a motion to proceed with the agenda as written. Paul Mitchell seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Review minutes for February 19, 2019

Barb Ingham made a motion to approve the February 19, 2019 meeting minutes. Paul Mitchell seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Action and discussion items

1. Program review, Plant Pathology, second review

Patty McManus, faculty member and department chair in the Department of Plant Pathology, joined the CALS APC meeting to provide a response to the program review. The department felt that the program review was fair and covered the major areas. The department took the review seriously and many faculty adjusted their summer schedules to participate (with a 75% participation rate). The department agrees with the review committee's findings on the strengths, challenges, and opportunities for the graduate program.

- Proud of 100% job placement rate.
- Proud of student body diversity which is key to workplace climate.
- Proud of high quality teaching experience.
- Very aware that the Russell Laboratories building is substandard, but glad to hear that a CALS master plan is in the works.
- The RA stipend was cited as concern and the department agrees that this is an ongoing challenge. The department tries to keep the stipend higher than the campus minimum, and provides at least \$500 of travel funds to any student that requests it, but agrees the stipend should be closely monitored.

- The number of required courses was cited as a concern. This topic is revisited every 3-4 years and the last time it was discussed, a decision was made to drop one required course. The best way to achieve the learning objectives is through required courses.
- Have had a reduction in the number of applicants to the program but unsure why. The program is not at a critical juncture, as not all applicants are currently being accepted, but this is something that should be explored.
- The website could use updating.

The department agrees with the review committee's findings on the strengths and low enrollment challenge for the undergraduate program.

- Acknowledge that the greatest challenge is the low number of majors, with fewer than 15 graduates per year.
- As part of the college organizational redesign, the department agreed to close the major and enter into a collaborative major with four other departments. This was a concession and no one in the department wanted to do this. The department was also asked to do this in the midst of the program review. The major is something the department should discuss again. Maybe it is possible to keep the major open and build enrollment. The Dean's Office recently stated that, at minimum, the department could keep the major open until the collaborative major is in place.

Comments and questions for the department:

- Question: What is the rationale behind the curriculum changes and more specifically, the creation of the 355 course? Is the 355 course for graduate students? Could decoupling a lab and lecture increase CFI? Response: The 355 course is one-credit practicum and does not yet exist as 355. It was put through the appropriate process, approved, and was lost somewhere. The course instructor would prefer to keep the course listing as 699 instead of 355. The course is for undergraduate and graduate students and is taught in the summer. It will never be large enrollment course. In regards to a lecture/lab decoupling, if this is in regards to the plant microbiome course, the lab is integral to the course. People send in samples and the students test the material (tree roots) and use statistical tools. It will never be a large enrollment course. It is the only microbiome course on campus with a lab and it would lose value if the lab was removed.
 - Question: Could enrollment be increased if there was more lab space? Response: Enrollment has been modest.
- Question: How will you increase student enrollment? Response: Doug Rouse teaches in the 151/152 courses. In the past, two other people also taught the 151/152 sequence. The department is interested in maintaining a foothold in 151/152 when Professor Rouse retires, and is planning to work with the CALS Dean's Office on plans for this. Professor Rouse is also involved with an antibiotic discovery course that fills the independent study requirement for 151/152, which has potential for growth.
- Question: Is there an opportunity to provide an undergraduate option that is less research focused? Response: There is a professional development course for students entering the job market with a bachelor's degree. The diagnostic clinic has a senior capstone with an outreach component. The research experience is very valuable.
 - Comment: Think of other markets to explore to grow the program and add a new type of student.

- Question: The teaching load for instructional staff was a concern from the last program review. Are there any updates on this? Response: Brian Hudelson has a 10% teaching appointment. The department also has a full-time instructional specialist and a half-time instructional specialist. In the past, Brian Hudelson had 0% teaching appointment but was doing some teaching, so that might have been part of the concern.
- Question: What is the role of the Department of Plant Pathology in the new agricultural ecosystems major? Response: The dean charged the Department of Agronomy and the Department of Horticulture to lead this effort. Doug Rouse and Todd Courtney serve as the department's representatives on the planning committee. The committee got off to a slow start. Doug Rouse is a very creative participant and presented an idea on a case-based biology effort, as literature shows that students don't retain as much information in a lecture format. The idea was liked by some and too radical for others. Todd Courtney was a biology advisor so he is well aware of what students are looking for and interested in. The committee is on track to provide the department with a concept in April. This is at least the third effort, over time, to collaborate with other departments. There is hope that this effort will be more successful, though there is also fear that something new might not attract students and/or succeed.
- Question: The PhD minor was identified as a low enrollment program. Will this program continue? Response: Information on the PhD minor was provided in the self-study but was not reviewed by the committee. The PhD minor has a value and a low cost, and no downsides have been identified.
 - Comment: Campus will want to know more about the value of the program and whether it has a unique value.
 - Comment: The PhD minor is largely cost neutral and we are one of the few universities that have transcriptable PhD minors. There is a huge argument for keeping these. This is where we walk the talk of preparing people for their careers and crossing disciplines. We should make a case to keep this.
 - Comment: Every PhD program on campus requires a minor but a significant portion of students are earning a distributed minor instead of a focused one.
 - Comment: Plant Pathology is not the smallest PhD minor that GFEC has seen. The Graduate School's primary objective is to reduce the numbers of PhD minors that are not used.
 - Decision: Karen Wassarman and Patty McManus will develop a justification to retain the PhD minor.

Question from Patty McManus: Former associate dean Sarah Pfatteicher clustered the timing of program reviews by discipline (e.g. plant sciences) in order to be able to look for commonalities, resources, etc. in those program reviews. Will the APC be looking at the common themes of the plant sciences program reviews and reporting back to the department chairs? APC response: The hope is that this will be done. One example is the discussion surrounding the new agricultural ecosystems major. The APC might want to think about content/questions that could lead to that discussion.

Alan Turnquist made a motion to accept the Plant Pathology program review as complete. Paul Mitchell seconded the motion. The motion was approved (9 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain).

2. Center review, Center for Dairy Research, continued discussion

The committee discussed the ten-year review of the Center for Dairy Research (CDR).

Comments:

- Comment: Tension exists between CDR and the Department of Food Science. This could be due to several factors, including shared building space, the building project, the center director being a Department of Food Science faculty member (which takes resources, e.g. teaching capacity, away from the department), and overhead returns.
- Comment: The climate issues were not addressed in John Lucey's verbal response and were not acknowledged in the written response from the center.
- Comment: There are two different CDR establishment documents, one of which was not provided by the center director.
- Comment: Suggest that in the review process for all centers, the review committees review the center's establishment documents to ensure that they are being followed. For CDR, there are some items in the establishment document that are not being followed, such as utilizing an advisory group that has faculty and staff as members. Establishment documents should be updated when needed. Consider campus and faculty governance procedures in doing this.
- Comment: Support annual performance review of center director.
- Comment: The CDR connection to CALS and campus is missing.
- Comment: May want to establish/lay out rules between CDR and Food Science.
- Comment: Are there ways to learn from CDR's success? Can we replicate these issues and fix any issues in new center establishment documents? Response: Could look at FRI as a good model.

Feedback summary:

- The climate issues 1) within CDR and 2) between CDR and the Department of Food Science need to be addressed.
- The annual performance review of the center director is a well-supported idea.
- The center should address how they add value to both the college and the campus, and how they collaborate within the university system.
- The center should consider establishing an advisory committee that includes university partners and stakeholders.
- Consider establishing ground rules of engagement, overhead, space, etc. between CDR and the Department of Food Science.

3. Environmental Resources Center, request for discontinuation

Ken Genskow, Environmental Resources Center director, joined the CALS APC meeting to present the proposal to discontinue the Environmental Resources Center (ERC). The closure of the center is related to the internal re-organization of Extension and the integration of Extension into UW-Madison. The center will be closed and absorbed into the Natural Resources Institute within the Division of Extension. The center director and the CALS associate dean for extension and outreach discussed the proposal with ERC staff last week. ERC operations will likely continue as they have in the past. This is largely a relocation of the ERC administrative home.

Comments and questions:

- Question: Are faculty and staff moving from CALS to the Division of Extension? Response: There are no CALS faculty appointed to the center. Ken Genskow, the center director, is a faculty member in L&S and his faculty appointment will not change. The Natural Resources Institute has its own director. Some CALS administrative staff appointments will move from CALS to the Division of Extension.
- Question: Will there be new expectations for staff due to this change? No because Extension is integrating into UW-Madison.

Chuck Kaspar made a motion to approve the proposal to discontinue the Environmental Resources Center. Paul Mitchell seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Farm and Industry Short Course, certificate in foundations of farm and agribusiness management (proposed name change)

Jennifer Blazek, Farm and Industry Short Course (FISC) director, joined the CALS APC meeting to present a proposed name change for the certificate in foundations of farm management. The FISC program began before the college was established and is a sixteen-week program. The program provides an opportunity for farmers and farm youth to get a hands-on and applied education. The program has a non-traditional audience who come to the university to learn about specific needs and is primarily for those not seeking a four-year degree. Though some students do end up pursuing a four-year degree, most want to return to their businesses and farms. CALS faculty and staff, including Extension specialists work together to teach the courses. FISC provides its own community. CALS is looking at the future of FISC. The program is doing well with its traditional on-farm audiences, but the program could be developed to meet the needs of more students, like industry interest.

The purpose of this proposal is to make changes to the current certificate. These changes include: 1) change the name to Foundations of Farm & Agribusiness Management (current name is Foundations of Farm Management); 2) change 4 credits of the total 12 credit certificate. The reason for this change is to reflect the wider audience of students in the program. The FISC program covers both farm and industry interest areas and yet the current name and structure of this certificate is limited to only farm. The intention is to reach a wider audience of students interested in all areas of agriculture. The name and the curriculum need to be modified to reflect the larger industry. Right now all 12 credits are required courses. This change would consolidate some of the courses and open it up for electives/options. Students have asked for more flexibility in courses and this change would help to balance core course needs with flexibility in elective courses.

As all first year students in the FISC program must complete the Foundations Certificate before continuing on in the program, the Foundations Certificate is vital to ensuring that students continue for an optional second year and receive the knowledge and information they need to be successful. As a revenue-generating program, FISC relies on student enrollment to continue. Based on input from industry, the FISC Program Committee, and students, these modifications will increase student enrollment because it makes for a more attractive program with a more robust and relevant learning experience for students. Adding "agribusiness" in the title of this certificate also reflects the addition and expansion of the program into other areas of agriculture, such as industry professions, turfgrass, urban agriculture, and other enterprises, which are not captured by the term "farm."

Comments and questions:

- Question: Has the CALS Curriculum Committee reviewed this proposal? Response: Yes, they did discuss it and did not have any concerns.

Paul Mitchell made a motion to approve the proposed changes to the certificate in foundations of farm and agribusiness management. Nicole Perna seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Farm and Industry Short Course, certificate in turfgrass management (new proposal)

Jennifer Blazek, Farm and Industry Short Course (FISC) director, joined the CALS APC meeting to present the proposed new certificate, along with Doug Soldat, faculty member in the Department of Soil Science. The purpose of the certificate is to provide formal education in turfgrass management to students who are not interested in or able to pursue a four-year degree. This certificate fits within the mission of the FISC program, which seeks to provide a practical, hands-on education in the application of scientific knowledge to production agriculture and related fields.

UW-Madison has had a specialization in Turf and Grounds Management housed in the Department of Soil Science since 1960. The program has supported 15-30 students for much of that time, but enrollment has declined to single digits in recent years. This enrollment trend is not unique to Wisconsin. The rising cost of tuition and abundance of entry-level positions in the turfgrass industry are factors that are driving students towards two-year associates or certificate programs nationwide. Currently, FISC does not cater to students interested in turfgrass management, but the FISC program has course offerings that are highly relevant to that group. This certificate will help FISC enhance the efficiency of its course offerings and expand the breadth of the program. The certificate will include five new courses, which will be primarily taught by Paul Koch and Doug Soldat.

Comments and questions:

- Question: Paul Koch is still assistant professor. Has the impact of FISC teaching on his work to obtain tenure been considered? Response: Yes, this was discussed with his department chair and mentoring committee chair. Professor Koch is excited about this opportunity. His teaching program will be part of his tenure packet, which includes FISC.
- Question: Do faculty get credit for teaching FISC? Response: FISC does not count towards college CFI; however, there are resources returned to the faculty member/department in the FISC model.
- Question: Will the department's CFI decline if Doug Soldat and Paul Koch teach FISC courses? Response: The FISC courses are additional courses they will teach. They will keep their present courses that do count towards CFI.
- Question: The rationale for this is dwindling enrollment in CALS courses, so why aren't we working to increase CFI? Response: The students who take Paul Koch's current courses are not students that will move into FISC. The FISC courses will be new courses for a different audience.
- Question: Will the departments be losing teaching resource capacity if we have faculty members teaching in FISC courses instead of CALS courses? Response: This is the same as teaching in any 131 program. Revenue-generating programs bring in funding/resources in different ways.

Barb Ingham made a motion to approve the certificate in turfgrass management proposal. Alan Turnquist seconded the motion. The motion was approved (10 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain).

6. Robert G.F. and Hazel Spitze land grant faculty award for excellence

Three nominations were received for the Spitze land grant faculty award. The members of the subcommittee, Jeri Barak, Paul Mitchell, and Majid Sarmadi, met to review and discuss the nominations. All three nominations were very strong and it was a difficult decision. The subcommittee made a recommendation to be reviewed by Dean VandenBosch before the next meeting.

Informational items

1. March 19, 2019 meeting cancelled

This meeting is cancelled due to lack of quorum.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:31pm. Dick Straub made a motion to adjourn.