

CALS Academic Planning Council

Meeting held via Zoom

March 16, 2021, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Attendees: Erika Anna, Laura Hernandez, Michael Thomas, Rick Lindroth, Jamie Nack, Xuejun Pan, William Tracy, Samuel Butcher, Michael Xenos, Jeremy Foltz, Nicole Perna, Jed Colquhoun, Barb Ingham

Absent: Scott Lutz

Ex Officio: Kate VandenBosch, Mark Rickenbach, Karen Wassarman, Doug Reinemann, Bill Barker

Guests: Bret Larget, Mary Michaud, Rick Amasino, Francisco Pelegri, Audrey Gasch, Kaitlin Sundling

Minutes taken by: Sarah Barber

Welcome and introductions

Review agenda

Revisions to current agenda

Consent Agenda

1. Approve minutes for March 2 meeting
2. Proposal to discontinue Plant Biology named option (Biology)
<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=998>

Items 1 and 2 approved by consent.

Action and Discussion Items

3. New undergraduate certificate proposals from L&S
Data Science

Bret Larget, Professor of Statistics and Botany and Chair of the Data Science Program Committee, presented the proposed Data Science undergraduate certificate. The certificate is administratively housed in Statistics. The Data Science Program Committee will oversee curriculum – bylaws indicated expanding membership. The certificate is proposed to be 16 credits. The program is reviewing new courses and willing to consider additional courses.

Q: Why are Biocore courses Fundamental electives? Biocore courses serve a small portion of students in the biological sciences.

A: Those courses incorporate data science content. The program is open to considering other courses.

Q: A lot of data analysis happens in the lab (e.g., Bio 152). Flexibility would be great.

A: Data analysis has to be a large percentage of the course.

Q: What is the distinction between fundamental and domain electives?

A: Domain electives do not go as deep, build on foundational or theoretical core concepts, and/or build on application. The committee did not want students to take two courses from the domain electives.

Motion to offer support of the proposal: Tracy/Foltz

Vote: 13-0-0

Health Policy

Mary Michaud, Faculty Associate with the La Follette School of Public Affairs, provided an overview of the certificate. The certificate aims to teach students the major underpinnings of US health policy. The internship/field requirement is expected to take place with state/county/city agencies (e.g., DHS, Corrections, etc.), private organizations/quality improvement organizations (e.g., MetaStar, Magellan etc.), and the insurance sector (WEA Trust, Dean, Quartz, etc.). A distinction between the Global Health programs and this program is Global Health emphasizes community health and understanding the setting where people interact around health while Health Policy emphasizes how people make decisions about health. The Entomology Department will be added as a vested interest in Lumen.

Motion to offer support for the proposal: Tracy/Anna

Vote: 13-0-0

4. Research and Teaching Professor Titles

Rick Amasino and Rick Lindroth answered questions about the proposed guidelines. Each department will be asked to prepare their own guidelines for the Research Professor title and the Teaching Professor title. The college guidelines will be reviewed at the next CASI meeting as well.

Q: How often will these titles be used?

A: There will be heterogeneity between CALS departments.

Q: Why must 5% of the salary come from the department?

A: Individuals funded by grants are not allowed to apply for new grants while on grant funding. This allows them the space to legitimately develop proposals. This will affect departments, but there is the possibility departments could recoup this expense through grant overhead. It is a concern, and there is not a way to work around it.

Q: Is there a degree requirement for the teaching professor?

A: There is not a requirement at the campus-level.

Comment: There is HR policy about who can instruct.

Comment: The teaching policy should refer to the HR policy.

Comment: There are other teaching titles that will not go away.

Q: Can the Research Professor guidelines include an allowance to include outreach at some level?

A: Yes, Rick Lindroth will make that change.

Q: Are both titles subject to same conflict of interest requirements?

A: They are academic staff so they would be subject to the same conflict of interest rules.

Q: Is the Teaching Professor expected to do more scholarly teaching? Conduct education research? Should a PhD be required?

A: Departments will create their own guidelines. Some departments might specify a PhD requirement.

APC will see the revised documents after all feedback is received. The Council will vote to approve the guidelines at that time.

5. Excellence in Extension

Doug Reinemann provided an overview of the Excellence in Extension documents. Since the Council first reviewed the documents, the faculty document was updated to indicate that for tenure and promotion faculty will develop a nation/international reputation in their field.

Comment: The commitment to Extension is in conflict with tenure rules in which tenure is not related to where the salary budget comes from.

Response: The student body is Extension students and faculty must assess teaching. Service is an expectation and depends on the stage of one's career.

Response: The document articulates that it is ok if one is spending their time in service. Research and teaching and service is elevated and service is supported with this type of appointment.

Motion to accept document: Ingham/Colquhoun

Vote: 13-0-0

7. Genetics Program Review (2nd discussion)

Francisco Pelegri, Chair of the Genetics Department, presented the department's response to the program review. The department felt the review was a helpful roadmap for the future. The undergraduate program has corrected its learning outcomes. The undergraduate program is working to shorten time to degree. They are increasing their summer course offerings from two to four. The program is continuing to build connections to their student body by revamping their annual student event, developing a bioethics course, and organizing inclusion activities for underrepresented students.

They are working on having students start in the major earlier. Half now start their sophomore year. Department is developing more freshmen and sophomore courses. There have been teaching lab issues and they are considering adding a summer lab as well as a genomics lab expansion. The program is actively working on career advising improvements. They want to train their advisors so they feel more comfortable with career advising.

Audrey Gasch, Director of Graduate Studies, presented the department's response to the graduate programs. The program has been tracking the graduate stipend issue annually. They track programs they lose students to and Midwest programs. The stipend is comparable, but they are falling behind. They found that the stipend influences the top echelon of students. Students with weaker scores do not site the stipend as an issue. This year, rather than increase the stipend rate beyond the UW-Madison rate in the biological sciences, they started a pilot program offering fellowships that will pay several thousands more a year for their top echelon students. The program feels this is the right way to balance the stipend rate with competitive forces. The program will evaluate this practice over time. The program felt there was a misconception about requiring students to complete their prelims and TA in the same semester. While scheduling does not always work out perfectly, the program plans to provide students with more advising about this issue. A taskforce of faculty and graduate students has been created to evaluate the teaching assistantships, how they are managed, ensuring training protocol is followed, etc.

Kaitlin Sundling, Assistant Professor and Cytotechnology Faculty Director, presented the department's response to the Cytotechnology program review. Cytotechnology is a health profession program that includes coursework and clinical practice. The program is a fall through summer program. The program review highlighted two points the program self-identified as areas to improve. First, the board completion rate of students who complete the program is lower than peers. The program is incorporating more active learning. Specifically, during the spring semester students

complete a comprehensive exam. Based on the results of the exam, individualized study plans are now developed for each student.

Summer is then a time when the program encourages active learning based on the individualized study plan. The second recommendation was to increase enrollment. The program can accept 12 students. This year they increased enrollment to 10 students. In years past it had been seven and lower. Relationships within the Genetics department has helped, and the program is expanding recruitment on the UW-Madison campus.

Q: Students need more career advising. Is more active faculty involvement necessary?

A: Yes, faculty should be involved. Possibly mentoring groups and helping advisors.

Q: Is Cytotechnology moving to require a Master's degree to practice in the field?

A: Yes, the profession is moving in that direction. Their accrediting body is putting together professional standards now. The UW-Madison program hopes to begin working on possible changes this summer.

Informational Items and Announcements

6. Graduate Fellowship Awards

Michael Thomas provided an overview of the Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship Award nomination recommendations. The review subcommittee included Michael Thomas, Scott Lutz, and Xuejun Pan. Two fellowships were awarded for the Goetz award. Four individuals were nominated for the Thomsen award. Thirteen nominations were received for the Thomsen and five for Goetz. There was a similar number of nominations last year.

Motion to approve nomination recommendations: Tracy/Foltz

Vote: 13-0-0

Meeting adjourn at 2:30pm