

CALS Academic Planning Council

Meeting held via Zoom

Apr 20, 2021, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

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

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

Guests: Michel Wattiaux, Courtney Berner, Rick Amasino, Julie Scharm

Minutes taken by: Sarah Barber

Welcome and introductions

Review agenda

Revisions to current agenda

Consent Agenda

1. Approve minutes for Apr 6 meeting

Item 1 approved by consent.

Action and Discussion Items

2. Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems Center Review (2nd discussion)

Michel Wattiaux, Interim Director presented the Center's response to the program review and recommendations. The Center is systems based around unifying themes. It is interdisciplinary in nature and it is focused on its primary stakeholders - small farmers and small agribusiness.

In response to the report recommendations:

- *The Center agrees with the need to recruit a faculty director. Sufficient funds required for a dedicated faculty director to champion CIAS.*
- *Regarding the lack of focus in programming, strategic planning is underway.*
- *Regarding the lack of strategic based funding, it is felt that faculty should ask themselves, what can I do for CIAS, rather than what CIAS can do for them.*

In response to the APC questions:

- *Climate concerns – the root of this stems from the lack of a committed faculty director. The Center could be more cohesive. The Office of Strategic Consulting has been brought in to improve climate and teamwork. The staff has been restructured around teams.*

- *CIAS overlap with Extension, CALS departments, and nonprofits – CIAS wants to work with Extension. There is overlap. CIAS brings interdisciplinary work in a participatory way.*
- *Optimal set up faculty director – 101 funding for the director could be part of solution.*
- *Center's relationship with CALS faculty and faculty associates – More two-way interaction with faculty in the College is needed.*

Q: What is the direction of the Growers schools?

A: There are two staff members in this area and we are interested in taking it to the next level. Start up spreadsheets for fruit growers have been successful and we may be partnering with Extension. The Wisconsin School of Beginning Dairy Farmers is foundation supported. The program has seen declines in enrollment. CIAS is trying to find a way forward. Short course might provide better alignment. There is private sector competition as well.

Q: There is a disconnect between Extension mission and 101 funding base. How does CIAS get research faculty more involved? The new Dairy Hub provides an example of how to use 101 funding to engage faculty in research. Is there a potential model there?

A: Yes. The Center should be able to invite and help facilitate interdisciplinary teams for large grants. Although faculty prefer grants going through department, the Center could support pre/post award.

Q: Tell us more about the climate issues.

A: The Center has been subjected to different directors with different approaches. Michel has led a reorganization of teams. The strategic planning and work with Office of Strategic Consulting will also help.

Q: Share more about faculty engagement. What is the carrot for faculty to be engaged? What can faculty do with the Center that they cannot achieve acting alone?

A: First, the Center has an extensive network of farmers and stakeholders. Faculty who want to have connections with stakeholders in their grants have the opportunity to make connections and be up-to-date on a broad spectrum of agricultural enterprises in Wisconsin. Second, for faculty, the landscape of funding is shifting to be more interdisciplinary. Interdisciplinary teams of faculty are strong teams that address problems from the farmers' perspectives.

The APC started its discussion of the Center review. Continued discussion and a vote will be scheduled for the next meeting.

3. Research and Teaching Professor Titles

Rick Amasino and Rick Lindroth presented the final draft of the Research and Teaching Professor titles. A few minor changes were made to these new title guidelines since the Council's last review.

Motion to approve the Research Professor title guidelines: Nack/Thomas

Vote: 14-0-0

Motion to approve Teaching Professor title guidelines: Butcher/Nack

Vote: 14-0-0

4. UW Center for Cooperatives Review (2nd discussion)

Courtney Berner, Interim Executive Director, provided an overview of the UW Center for Cooperatives. The UWCC is planning to engage in strategic planning in July 2021 and will address recommendations from the review. Through the strategic planning process the Center will identify goals, then strategics to achieve goals. The goals will be dependent on the Center's ability to increase capacity. A Center priority is to fund the academic staff position lost last year. The Center will continue to prioritize its work on diversity, equity and inclusion. Several of the suggestions in the review are typically taken on by the faculty director and the Center will need a reinvestment in the faculty director position and academic staff position to make progress.

The first question asked by the APC is about the plan for securing a faculty director. There has been very strong support from the co-op community to fill that position as they have shared with the CALS Dean's Office. It ultimately depends on CALS, AAE and Extension leadership decisions. The staff of the UWCC and the co-op community would like a new director to be well versed in cooperatives.

The second question was concerning wider faculty involvement. The center has worked with Professor Michael Collins to secure funding for economic development initiatives. In 2021 the Center will have a meeting of faculty affiliates to build connections and grow relationships. The recruiting of faculty affiliates has been done by academic staff. A new faculty director could further develop relationships.

The final question was about securing additional funding. The Center has secured internal funding to promote industry initiatives. The Center secured a small \$5,000 award last month through the UW-Madison 4W initiative. UWCC received a \$96K coop gift. Extramural funding is tied to the lack of a faculty director. The Center has the opportunity to go to the cooperative industry for support. The Center will continue to seek the rural cooperative grant which it has received for 10 years successfully.

Q: I want to thank Courtney for her work under these difficult circumstances. Does anyone have permanent PI status?

A: No. Courtney has temporary PI status. Laura Schlachter has temporary PI status and is currently on maternity leave.

The APC did not begin its discussion of the Center review. A discussion and a vote will be scheduled for the next meeting.

5. Discussion around a Low Enrollment Course Policy

Karen Wassarman brought the idea of developing a CALS low enrollment policy to APC for consideration. A campus policy on low enrollment courses does not exist (a campus policy on low award producing programs does exist). Examples of policies from other schools and colleges were shared with the Council in Box.

Comment: High impact courses and their fluctuating enrollment from year to year need to be considered

Comment: There is some low enrollment threshold where it is not useful to run a course. What that threshold is, is to be determined. The College needs methods for review and a process. We need a balance of both high enrollment courses and high impact courses.

Comment: Yes, we need to work on developing this policy. CALS rules would help department chairs. We need to expect some exceptions as well.

Comments: I'm opposed cancelling courses after students have signed up. When building the schedule of classes departments need to take into account historically low enrollment courses. Low student/instructor ratio isn't always bad. Personalized attention in classroom is desired. 6-7 students in an 800-level graduate course can be a very valuable experience.

Comment: This is an excellent topic for an APC work group or subcommittee. Be transparent with department chairs as policy is developed and data are gathered. Survey department chairs, undergraduate committee directors, graduate coordinators, student services staff for input as thresholds developed.

Comment: Some programs are low enrollment but students need courses for graduation so course enrollment will be low.

Comment: It would be helpful to see what CALS courses will be impacted.

Comment: Don't reinvent wheel. Use what works from other school/college policies.

A policy will be worked on in Fall 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm