

# CALS Academic Planning Council

Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
January 18, 2022, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

2021-22 meeting materials found at:

<https://uwmadison.box.com/v/CALSAPC21-22>

**Attendees:** Samuel Butcher, Todd Courtenay, David Eide, Barbara Ingham, Medhi Kabbage, Jamie Nack, Xuejun Pan, Francisco Peñagaricano, Guanming Shi (arrived at 1:31 pm), Michael Thomas, Thea Whitman, Michael Xenos

**Absent:** Jed Colquhoun, Eric Kruger

**Ex Officio:** Kate VandenBosch, Louis Macias, Mark Rickenbach, Karen Wassarman

**Guests:** Kristin Eschenfelder (items #2-3, arrived at 1:13 pm, departed at 1:22 pm), Yazhen Wang (item #2, departed at 1:22 pm), Remzi Arpaci-Dusseau (items #2-3, departed at 1:22 pm)

**Minutes by:** Therese McHenry

Welcome and introductions

Review agenda

Revisions to current agenda

- *No revisions were made to the agenda.*

## Consent Agenda

1. December 21, 2021 meeting minutes (Box)
  - *Item 1 was approved by consent.*

## Action and Discussion Items

2. MS-Data Science, L&S: proposal
  - *Yazhen Wang, chair of the Department of Statistics, Remzi Arpaci-Dusseau, chair of the Department of Computer Sciences, and later Kristen Eschenfelder, associate dean in the College of Letters & Science (L&S) attended to provide information related to the MS-Data Science proposal and to answer questions from the APC.*
  - *The Notice of Intent for this program was reviewed by the CALS APC on October 19, 2021 and at that point, the CALS APC wished to see the full proposal when it was complete.*
  - *The MS-Data Science is a 131 revenue-generating professional master's program and is a joint program between Statistics and Computer Sciences (CS).*
  - *The program will be administratively housed in Statistics, and Statistics and CS will equally share revenue and curriculum.*
  - *The degree is designed to combine core elements of statistics and computer sciences, with space reserved for electives in domain sciences and other partners on campus.*
  - *The program will be compatible for students wanting to learn fundamentals of data science who may pair it with more specific courses in other domains, which is a little unusual for a professional program.*
  - *The target audience for this program would be varied but may be comprised of those interested in learning data science skills to solve problems in their domain science and those interested in the technical skills of computation and statistics.*
  - *This program is interested in domain tailoring, so any interested departments are welcome to contact the program proponents for further conversations.*

- *CALS, in parallel, is exploring our future data analytic needs, what our strengths and needs are based on where our disciplines are going, especially in respect to research and graduate education. Jeri Barak is chairing that effort and Dean VandenBosch will relay the invitation to have further discussions to her.*
3. MS-Data Engineering, L&S: proposal
- *Remzi Arpaci-Dusseau, chair of the Department of Computer Sciences and later Kristen Eschenfelder, associate dean in L&S attended to provide information related to the MS-Data Engineering proposal and to answer questions from the APC.*
  - *Data science is a broad field and is part of the toolkit for scientists in other domains and departments.*
  - *In the industrial side of the world, there is increasingly a role of someone that works with data scientists but is not a data scientist themselves but is called a data engineer.*
  - *Data engineers work to get the data into a form in which data science then can be done. They deal with databases and large-scale data processing systems and their work is more CS-oriented.*
  - *This degree is different than the mathematical and conceptual knowledge needed to understand machine learning and conduct data science.*
  - *There is a connection to data science but is more related to the CS side and the work that happens before data science is conducted.*
  - *The program is a 131 revenue-generating professional master's program and is targeted at students with a CS background who want to work in a data engineer position in industry.*
  - *This proposal has had an expedited development, in part because there has been interest from partners in the Army who have a need for a program like this so have been working with the program proponents, but the program will be open to others.*
  - *Questions and feedback from the committee for items #2-3*
    - *What's the projected enrollment you envision for these programs, both initially and then in the 3-5 year period?*
      - *For the MS-Data Science, there is high demand. Statistics already has a named option in data science that has 80-90 students.*
      - *The initial enrollment for the first few years is conservative, estimated around 25 students, with an ideal eventual target of 100-200 students.*
      - *The MS-Data Engineering degree will start smaller and demand will be monitored. The interested Army personnel will be a small group, but this program is expected to be fairly large eventually, given the number of high-paying jobs in industry in this space.*
      - *Another reason for the conservative estimates in Lumen is that Statistics and CS both have established programs and courses and we want to serve students well given the demands on the programs. There needs to be planned, controlled growth in order to hire faculty and instructors and to guarantee a high-quality experience.*
    - *What are you hoping for from the CALS APC?*
      - *Proponents of the MS-Data Science and MS-Data Engineering are looking for a letter of support for both full proposals so when the proposals go to the Graduate Faculty Executive Committee (GFEC) and the University Academic Planning Council (UAPC) it will be evident that CALS has reviewed the proposals and had all questions answered.*
    - *What is the timeframe to provide the support?*
      - *Because of the GFEC deadlines, support should be provided in the immediate future, but can just be a standard form letter.*
      - *Kristin Eschenfelder will email Karen Wassarman and Elaine Klein to confirm if feedback provided by comment in the Lumen proposal is sufficient.*

4. Meet and greet with Louis Macias, associate dean for diversity, equity and inclusion
  - *The CALS Equity and Diversity Committee (EDC) made several recommendations to the dean, one of which was to establish a new office in CALS administration for diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) issues for the college.*
  - *In summer 2021, a search was launched for the first college chief diversity officer.*
  - *We want to recognize and thank the EDC and the search and screen committee for their efforts and assistance in honing our vision and having a successful search.*
  - *Louis Macias was selected to be our first associate dean for diversity, equity and inclusion, with a start date of January 18, 2022.*
  - *Macias was a very attractive candidate for this position due to his diversity of experiences in higher education and in DEI efforts.*
    - *He was in student facing activities in the School of Business.*
    - *He served as a development officer at the UW Foundation.*
    - *Most recently, he was the first chief diversity officer at the UW Police Department.*
  - *Macias started his career in K-12 education, as a middle and high school social studies teacher and transitioned to higher education about 14 years ago and has been at UW-Madison for about 7 years.*
  - *Macias already has ideas of what he'd like to accomplish and will be busy having many meetings to get acquainted with the college and personnel. We hope to have him back to the APC in the future when he has had time to shape his priorities.*
  - *APC members introduced themselves to Macias and informed him of any membership on departmental DEI committees.*
5. Remaining APC discussion on above action items
  - *The APC allowed time for additional discussion on the MS-Data Science and MS-Data Engineering proposals, but nothing further was warranted.*
  - *Motion to provide support for both the MS-Data Science and MS-Data Engineering proposals: Ingham/Nack*
  - *Vote: 12-0*

*The meeting adjourned at 1:39 pm.*