

CALS Academic Planning Council

6201 Microbial Sciences Building

February 21, 2023, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Present: Bradley Bolling, Jed Colquhoun, Noah Feinstein, Glenda Gillaspay (Zoom), Mehdi Kabbage, Patrick Masson, Francisco Peñagaricano, Sean Schoville, John Shutske, Michael Thomas, Thea Whitman, Karen Wassarman

Not present: Jamie Nack, Todd Courtenay, Huichuan Lai, Michael Xenos.

Ex Officio: Heidi Zoerb (Zoom)

Guest: Kent Weigel

Karen Wassarman called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

Note: Items 3 and 4 were discussed in reverse order to accommodate attendees.

1. Feb 7, 2023 meeting minutes for approval

With a minor edit, Thea Whitman moved to approve the minutes, Mehdi Kabbage seconded, and the APC voted to approve unanimously. Approved minutes will be posted on the APC website.

2. Animal and Veterinary Biosciences BS, new major proposal

Kent Weigel, chair of Animal and Dairy Sciences, opened the discussion by reminding the APC members of the department merger (two and half year ago), which allowed them to re-envision their undergraduate majors. The proposal here is to open a new major, Animal and Veterinary Biosciences, that will ultimately replace the Animal Sciences major. The rationale for the new major is to:

- Better serve and reflect the student population, where 83% of incoming students consider themselves pre-vet.
- Add more flexibility in course choice to serve the broader discipline.

Overall, the goal is to serve the students well, prepare the best pre-vet students in the country while also preparing students who will not end up in veterinary school.

Questions: Is the Dairy Sciences major also going to get revamped or will the new major encapsulate that?

Remaining 2022-23 Meetings: Feb 21, Mar 7, Mar 21, Apr 4, Apr 18, May 2, May 16

Chair: Glenda Gillaspay

Division 1: Francisco Peñagaricano ('23) Animal and Dairy Sciences | Bradley Bolling ('25) Food Science

Division 2: Thea Whitman ('24) Soil Science | Sean Schoville ('25) Entomology

Division 3: Michael Xenos ('23) LSC | Noah Feinstein ('25) CES

Division 4: Jed Colquhoun ('23) Horticulture | Mehdi Kabbage ('24) Plant Pathology

Division 5: Michael Thomas ('23) Bacteriology | HuiChuan Lai ('24) Nutritional Sciences | Patrick Masson ('25) Genetics

Extension: John Shutske ('25)

Academic Staff: Jamie Nack ('23) | Todd Courtenay ('24)

Answer: The Dairy Science major is expected to be updated as well, but the new curriculum is not yet ready for consideration.

Question: I am interested in how students might be able to explore different career interests through the curriculum. Is there intention to bring speakers that represent different career paths?

Answer: Yes. We have seminar courses, starting with the first year seminar and including the capstone courses, that teach/inform students about possible careers, around the grand challenges in animal sciences.

Question: How much attrition do you have in the program now? And considering the change in the curriculum, how are students with changing goals going to be redirected?

Answer: There is attrition currently. Some students leave the major because they do not see an alternative when/if they realize that vet school may not be for them. We have had changed models of advising, our curriculum committee has plans moving forward to enhance faculty mentoring, and we hope the flexibility in curriculum will meet more flexible student needs/goals.

Question: Program proposal mentions the current major is considered complementary to Zoology and Wildlife Ecology. How have discussions with these other units gone?

Answer: School of Vet Med, School of Education, and Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology are very supportive; Zoology has raised many questions, in part based on not fully understanding our proposal and courses we already teach. We continue to discuss our intentions with them and hope that L&S will not have formal objections when we are done with discussion.

Question: Do students pursue internships or training programs in the Summer?

Answer: Internship and summer opportunities will be an option in this major and students are encouraged to participate.

Sean Schoville made a motion to approve the new major proposal and John Shutske seconded. APC unanimously voted to approve the Animal and Veterinary Biosciences BS proposal.

3. Chancellor's address (update and discussion)

Dean Gillaspy summarized the Chancellor's address to academic leaders on February 14, 2023, which highlighted five priorities:

1. Freedom of speech and sense of belonging

While students report that faculty are very inclusive in classrooms, some students still report self-censoring as a barrier to their growth. The goal is for students from different backgrounds to freely share ideas and feel a sense of belonging on our campus. It was emphasized that there has been an 18% increase in diversity in student pool of applicants this admission cycle.

2. Sustainability

Chancellor talked about sustainability in two ways:

1. On campus sustainability
2. Making headway in research questions related to sustainability, an area where CALS is a leader.

3. **Research**

She discussed what needs to be done to advance our mission and raise our research rankings. She mentioned building larger research teams for cross-disciplinary research, and start-up packages and whether they are sustainable. Among other issues, the old infrastructure was discussed and how we compare negatively to peer institutions.

4. **Strategic hiring**

The Chancellor talked about the idea of “right-sizing” our faculty.

5. **Flourishing**

Chancellor Mnookin talked about expanding on the successful Bucky Tuition Promise program to generate Bucky Pell Tuition Promise. This new program includes coverage of room, board, book allowance, and transportation costs to be included in addition to tuition costs for qualifying low-income students. She also mentioned that a paid parental leave policy was in the works.

Question: Are there particular pressure points or levers that APC should focus on?

Answer: As a college we must start thinking about what is needed for us to be world leaders; not asking for a new building but perhaps human resources (faculty, experts) that would strengthen the college to achieve a big picture goal or a project.

Question: On sustainability and priority areas, CALS doesn't have the reputation of being a leader in campus despite this area being clearly seen as a college strength, internally. Is Chancellor aware of all the work that takes place in CALS?

Answer: Yes, she is aware of what goes on in CALS. She recently tweeted about the Life Sciences being done in CALS.

Discussions:

- The conversation continued around the family leave policy and concerns around the lack of it as being an issue for retention and hiring purposes.
- APC also discussed the current opportunity to make the most of federal funding to build research spending and partnerships and how UW has not been able to compete with peer institutions when it comes to large multi-disciplinary grants.

4. **CALS Awards (update and discussion)**

Heidi Zoerb opened this discussion item by asking APC to share their thoughts about ideas to improve the CALS Awards program in the future, especially with regards to the low number of nominations for many of our awards. Some specific questions included:

- Do you think we have too many awards? Is the list intimidatingly long?
- What are barriers for nominators?

Comments from the APC included:

- The perception that people who get the awards largely self-nominate or ask to be nominated until awarded. This perception lessens the feeling of the importance of the award.
 - o Note: In reality, the College doesn't allow self-nominations, but some departments do. In addition, it is rare to see repeated nominations of the same people.
- Making the application process easier for the department nomination
 - o External letters and summary letters are a burden for nomination application. Thus, thinking about what is essential to include in the application material could lessen this burden.
 - A reminder that some of these nomination requirements are set by donors but is definitely worth looking more closely at where changes are possible.
 - o Could better connection to campus-wide awards (especially in due dates) assist?
- The idea of rolling nominations was suggested to avoid busy times, but the consensus was that this would likely not be an improvement as people work better with a deadline.
- Categorizing and better organizing the awards might help.

Meeting adjourned at 2:21pm.