

CALS Academic Planning Council
6201 Microbial Sciences Building
December 5, 2023, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Attendees: Samer Alatout, Francisco Arriaga, Bradley Bolling, Todd Courtenay, Sheldon Du, Glenda Gillaspay, HuiChuan Lai, Mehdi Kabbage, Patrick Masson, Sean Schoville, John Shutske, Daniel Smith, Zhou Zhang

Not present: Ivan Rayment, William Tracy

Ex Officio: Irwin Goldman, Louis Macias, Paul Mitchell, Troy Runge

Guests: Kent Weigel, Patrick Krysan, Diana Frantz-Anderson

The meeting started at 1:00 pm.

1. November 7, 2023 meeting minutes for approval

Minutes were approved and will be posted on the APC website.

John Shutske continued the discussion of curricular changes from the previous APC meeting.

2. Dairy and Food Animal Management BS – new program

Chair Kent Weigel thanked APC members and gave a brief historical overview of the Animal and Dairy Sciences department. Kent briefly discussed the state of the current majors, noting the growth in enrollment and the hirings in the department.

The attention turned to the newly proposed program and discussion included:

- *This proposed major will replace the current Dairy Science undergraduate major.*
- *The program will provide students with foundations in animal science, food and animal agriculture, and the business management of animal production enterprises.*
- *The program will train future leaders in the dairy industry.*
- *The program targets students who have a passion for farming or related agribusinesses, and who seek to apply science concepts to management and other customer-facing roles in businesses focused on animal genetics, animal nutrition, animal health or related fields.*

Question: *Is there a capstone or some sort of internship path to career?*

Answer: *Yes, an internship is required and there are two capstone choices.*

Question: *Curious to know more about how the name of the program came about?*

Answer: It was a committee decision. Food animal is a broad term that encompasses all the animals and industries included in this major. For example, livestock is a narrower term and excludes poultry.

Comment: Looking through the curriculum one notes a decent number of classes - about 21 separate classes. However, I am not seeing the sustainability element in the curriculum?

Answer: The curriculum is a lot more flexible than the current one. We are reworking some of the classes and combining some others. We have a course on sustainability which is not listed due to the professor retiring. New faculty has agreed to teach it and we are willing to add it back.

Question: Do such programs exist and is there indication of how successful they have been over the years?

Answer: They do, and they are very traditional in a lot of universities; they need modernization, which we are doing with the most hires in the last 5 years.

Question: The focus of the program looks to be on agricultural production and farm management, is there a component in the program beyond farm keep with focus on downstream related industries?

Answer: The major includes components in meat sciences, meat processing, food law and regulations, but not dairy processing specifically. I think the course on sustainability will touch on that a little bit.

Question: What was your thinking about the future of the students – will they remain in the Wisconsin Industry and if so, what are the trends? Or was the thinking more of a national level?

Answer: The thinking is that most of our students will remain in the region.

Question: You imagine that most of the students will be of farming backgrounds?

Answer: Farm population is decreasing and limiting the audience to farming backgrounds isn't viable and doesn't reflect the potential student interest. We hope the major is accessible to a wider population of students interested in different aspects of the field.

Todd Courtenay made a motion to support the new Dairy and Food Animal Management BS program pending the incorporation of the sustainability component. Francisco Arriaga seconded, and APC voted in favor unanimously.

NOTE: The next three items were discussed as a block.

- 3. PLANTSCI new subject listing**
- 4. Discontinue Agronomy subject listing**
- 5. Discontinue Horticulture subject listing**

- Department Chair, Patrick Krysan, reminded APC members of the recent merger of the two departments (Agronomy and Horticulture) into the Plant and Agroecosystem Sciences Department.
- Maintaining subject listings called Agronomy and Horticulture no longer make sense.
- The proposal is to create a new subject listing called Plant Science – there are good precedents across land grant universities.
- The proposed subject listing is legitimate and a logical label for our courses.

Question: Have you reached out to other departments about this subject listing?

Answer: We have talked about this topic strategically. Soon, our department will propose a new major and the working title is Plant Science. This will be a bigger discussion compared to subject listing discussion. We are aware of the potential opinions perhaps by the L&S about using this title for the new major, but we are taking the approach of putting the request and see how they react.

Question: You mentioned the new Plant Science major that will be developed. When this goes through, the college will not have the subject listings for Agronomy and Horticulture, but the majors will remain during the transition. Is that the plan?

Answer: That is basically correct. The timing of this is always complicated as we will create the new subject listings, but they will not contain any courses. Later the courses will be added one by one. The old subject listings, in time, will contain no courses and will go dark.

Question: In Agronomy and Horticulture subject listings there was redundancy in terms of courses offered, is there an attempt to eliminate it in the new subject listings?

Answer: I would say the main redundancy was the Intro to Agronomy and Intro to Horticulture courses and the faculty are working on coming up with the new Intro to Plant Science course. Beyond that, as a department, we are going to work on making the most of our teaching resources. There is not a ton of redundancies, but we are moving away from cross listings.

Todd Courtenay made a motion to discontinue the Agronomy and Horticulture subject listings and implement the PLANTSCI subject listing. Patrick Mason seconded, and APC voted unanimously to approve.

6. College Updates

- Curricular and course discussions continued from the last APC meeting.
- Department representatives reported on organizational and structural decision-making processes on curricular affairs and curricular changes within their departments.

- *Cross-listing courses across colleges is becoming more restrictive and more difficult procedurally.*
- *Approval process for curricular changes*
- *Robert G. F. and Hazel T. Spitze Land Grant Faculty Award for Excellence*
 - *The call for nominations for this award has gone out. APC members are asked to help identify candidates for this award, which is an important and a prestigious award for CALS. The deadline for award recommendation is Feb 16, 2024. A subcommittee of the APC will be needed to review the applications; if you are willing to serve on the subcommittee reach out to Interim Assoc Dean Paul Mitchell.*
 - *Mehdi Kabbage, Brad Bolling from CALS APC volunteered, and Paul will email SoHE leadership for a name.*

Meeting adjourned at 2:16p.