

CALS Academic Planning Council  
6201 Microbial Sciences Building  
February 2, 2024, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

**Attendees:** Sean Schoville, Samer Alatout, Bradley Bolling, Ivan Rayment, Zhou Zhang, Patrick Masson, John Shutske, Tara LaRowe, Sheldon Du, HuiChuan Lai, Todd Courtenay, Mehdi Kabbage, William Tracy (via Zoom)

**Not present:** Thea Whitman

**Ex Officio:** Glenda Gillaspay, Irwin Goldman, Troy Runge, Doug Reinemann (via Zoom)

**Guests:** Doug Soldat (via Zoom), Nick Balster, Francisco Pelegri, Megan Ackerman-Yost

The meeting started at 1:01 pm.

1. **December 5, 2023, meeting minutes and January 16, 2024, notes for approval**

*Minutes were approved and will be posted to the APC website.*

2. **Soil Science BS Suspension/Discontinuation**

*Doug Soldat gave a short summary on the rationale for discontinuing the program. The undergraduate program has had low enrollment for a number of years, and the department has pivoted to other methods of educating undergraduates in the field, including co-leading the Environmental Sciences major, participating in the Agroecology major, and proposing a new certificate.*

**Question:** *Do you think this will impact course offerings?*

**Answer:** *No, Soil Science is conducting a review of its course offerings, but this change is not related and will not impact the ability of the department to offer courses.*

**William Tracy made a motion to discontinue the Soil Science BS. Samer Alatout seconded, and APC voted in favor unanimously.**

3. **Dairy Science BS Suspension/Discontinuation**

*Megan Ackerman-Yost gave a short summary on behalf of Kent Weigel, ADS Chair. The department has created a new major, Dairy and Food Animal Management, which is currently waiting for Board of Regents approval. This new proposed major will fill the needs of students interested in Dairy Science,*

*and the Dairy Science BS will no longer be needed. Suspending/discontinuing the Dairy Science BS will ensure a smooth transition for both faculty and students to the two new majors in the department: Animal & Veterinary Biosciences and Dairy & Food Animal Management. There was no discussion.*

***William Tracy made a motion to suspend/discontinue the Dairy Science BS. Sean Schoville seconded, and APC voted in favor unanimously.***

#### **4. Environmental Soil Science Certificate**

*Nick Balster gave a short summary. The proposed certificate provides interested undergraduates with a foundation in environmental soil science, which is valuable in preparation for careers in soil science, environmental remediation, and other soil-related fields.*

***Question:*** *Is there overlap between the certificate and any majors?*

***Answer:*** *Yes, but the certificate provides a unique combination of courses, so there is only partial overlap.*

***Question:*** *How does this affect the pipeline to graduate programs?*

***Answer:*** *We believe it will strengthen that pipeline in some ways, since a wider population of students may be exposed to the field. The graduate program is robust.*

***Sean Schoville made a motion to approve the Environmental Soil Science Certificate. Mehdi Kabbage seconded, and APC voted in favor unanimously.***

#### **5. Nutrient and Pest Management program move from CALS to the Division of Extension**

*Doug Reinemann gave a short summary. This is the last center to move over to Extension. Damon Smith will remain the director and was the one to propose this change. Extension has committed to refilling the NPM positions within Extension.*

***Question:*** *is the Extension budget locked in?*

***Answer:*** *Extension does not get tuition dollars. Funding comes in thirds: state, federal and county. County is flat and state is declining.*

***Bill Tracy made a motion to approve the move of Nutrient and Pest Management Program to Extension. Mehdi Kabbage seconded, and APC voted in favor unanimously.***

**6. Spitze Land Grant Award.**

*Brad Bolling and Mehdi Kabbage are on the subcommittee to choose nominees. Mehdi explained there were four highly qualified nominees, but one person embodied the awards description that it is to award comprehensive scholarly performance over a sustained period of time.*

*Nominees this year were:*

*Alfred Hartemink, Soil Science*

*Michael Collins, Human Ecology*

*Richard Lankau, Plant Pathology*

*Christelle Guedot, Entomology*

7. Glenda led a discussion about Department-housed professorships. She wanted to gauge the members knowledge of the professorships and what the processes are in individual Departments.

**8. Certificate in Cytotechnology Suspension/Discontinuation**

*Francisco Pelegri gave a short summary. The certificate was housed in the State Lab of Hygiene. Ten years ago, it was divested from SMPH and went to the Department of Genetics. Over those ten years, there has been decreasing alignment between the program and department faculty interests, and the program has not integrated with any Genetics programs. There have been issues with course listing and course oversight, and the program has experienced low enrollment over the years. There are currently 10 students, and they are scheduled to graduate this summer. They will not be affected by this certificate suspension/discontinuation, which will occur next fall. The Genetics department voted unanimously to discontinue this certificate.*

***Sean Schoville made a motion to approve the suspension/discontinuation of the Certificate in Cytotechnology. Samer Alatout seconded, and APC voted in favor unanimously.***

*Dean Gillaspy opened the floor to any other questions or discussion.*

***Question:*** *Is there any update on the strategic faculty hiring initiative.*

***Answer:*** *No formal update to share. College expects to hear from university leadership in March. We will have a new budget model by this summer and have a shadow year to understand implementation. WI Idea committee being formed but we do not know who will be on this committee at this time.*

Meeting adjourned at 1:57pm.