

CALS Academic Planning Council  
6201 Microbial Sciences Building  
January 7, 2024, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

**Attendees:** Patrick Masson, Sarah Gragg, Beth Olson, Garret Suen, Tara LaRowe, Zhou Zhang, John Shutske, Zuzana Burivalova, Ivan Rayment  
Nick Balster (via zoom)

**Not present:** Aurelie Rakotondrafara, William Tracy, Bradley Bolling, Sheldon Du, Tom Bryan, Sean Schoville, Dominique Brossard, Samer Alatout

**Ex Officio:** Glenda Gillaspy, Jeri Barak

The meeting started at 1:01 p.m.

1. **December 3, 2024, minutes approval**

Garret.Suen.made.a.motion.to.approve.the.December.9rd.meeting.minutes; John. Shutske.seconded; A.simple.majority.voted.in.favor.to.approve; There.was.one. abstainer; Minutes.were approved.and.will.be.posted.to.the.APC.website;

2. **Nutritional Sciences – program reviews**

Jeri Barak reminded the APC members that their role is to review the report produced by the external reviewers. From there APC members can bring up anything they thought was missing, anything they think the review team might have misunderstood, what recommendations are actionable by the department, are they reasonable, and are they actionable by the college.

**Question:** Is it the role of the APC to review the report and enforce some of the recommendations?

**Answer:** It is the role of the APC to approve the report. Central campus receives the report after APC approves it. The dean will write a letter to the department in response to the report.

**Question:** Thinking about past reviews, there didn't seem to be action on past recommendations. Does the department just self-monitor?

**Answer:** The college has the responsibility to follow through on those recommendations. The department cannot address all recommendations, they will have to prioritize them.

**Question:** From a process perspective, it seems like this was the right review. Is this what the college is looking for?

**Answer:** Yes, this is what we are looking for.

Ivan.Rayment.made.a.motion.to.approve.the.Nutritional.Sciences.program.review. report; John.Shutske.seconded; There.was.a.unanimous.vote.to.approve;

3. **Community & Environmental Sociology – program review (Undergrad only)**

Jeri shared that only the undergrad program was reviewed. This review was done before the process changed to external reviewers and was done by three internal faculty who wrote the report. This department is focused on revamping the undergrad program. They have done a lot of work starting with student learning outcomes. They plan to make changes to current courses and add new courses that will take effect in the fall of 2026.

John.Shutske.made.a.motion.to.approve.the.Community.™.Environmental.Sociology.  
program.review.report.with.emphasis.on.the.improvement.of.the.disciplinary.major.  
and.recruitment.into.it;Sara.Gragg.seconded;There.was.a.unanimous.vote.to.  
approve;

4. **RFS Notice of Intent MS, Applied Mathematics, Scientific Computing, and Data Science**

Jeri informed the council that the AAE department is supportive of this new MS.

**Question:** Was BSE sent this NOI?

**Answer:** No

**Question:** Do you think this MS has some overlap with BSE?

**Answer:** No.

Sara.Gragg.made.a.motion.to.approve.the.request.for.support.to.plan.an.MS.in.  
Applied.Mathematics?Scientific.Computing.and.Data.Science;Beth.Olson.  
seconded;There.was.a.unanimous.vote.to.approve;

5. **RFS New Program Implementation: MS Quantitative Economics**

Jeri informed the council that AAE is supportive of the new program.

John.Shutske.made.a.motion.to.approve.the.request.for.support.of.the.new.program.  
implementation.MS.Quantitative.Economics;Garret.Suen.seconded;There.was.a.  
unanimous.vote.to.approve;

6. **RFS New Program Implementation: BS, Public Affairs In LaFollette.**

**Question:** Do all chairs get notifications of these requests for support?

**Answer:** The programs that would likely be impacted, yes.

Beth.Olson.made.a.motion.to.approve.the.request.for.support.of.the.new.program.  
implementation.BS.Public.Affairs.in.LaFolette;Patrick.Masson.seconded;There.was.

a.unanimous.vote.to.approve;

## **7. RFS Notice of Intent BS, Environmental Studies and Sustainability**

Jeri informed the council that this was started in the Nelson Institute but does not have a home college. Departments own programs and certificates, that is how we would consider a program within the framework of the college. There is no framework to consider this degree since it comes out of the Nelson Institute.

**Question:** They don't have any parallel degrees?

**Answer:** No.

Nelson has been administering this degree, but Nelson is not a degree granting entity, but they would like to be one.

Nelson administers the major, not the degree. The degree is administered by L&S. This is a proposal for a degree program, not a major.

**Question:** Does it mean it will largely replace the current env studies major?

**Answer:** This is unknown.

APC cannot approve a degree program. The dean can send a response, and the committee can send their own response.

**Question:** Are there other examples of this in the university?

**Answer:** CALS shares the environmental science degree program with L&S. Students decide which college they want to earn their degree in. That structure has worked fairly well and is one that was suggested early on when planning this major.

As a reminder to the committee, you are charged with reviewing the NOI. Does it serve the needs of students on campus? Does it meet the academic rigor? Bring your CALS perspective to this.

John.Shutske.made.a.motion.that.the.CALS.APC.is.unable.to.support.the.notice.to.plan.for.the.Environmental.Studies.major.at.this.time; It.is.unclear.why.this.new.proposed.stand\_alone.degree.program.is.needed.to.replace.a.coordinate.major.to.meet.student.needs; Nick.Balster.seconded; A.simple.majority.voted.in.favor.to.approve; There.was.one.abstainer;

## **8. Ad hoc committee volunteers needed for Spitze Land Grant Award**

Historically two APC members and a faculty member from SoHE make up a committee to recommend a recipient of the Spitze Land Grant Award. There are

five applications, three are carried over from last year. Beth Olson and Sara Gragg volunteered for this committee.

The meeting ended at 2:28 p.m.