

CALS Academic Planning Council  
6201 Microbial Sciences Building  
March 4, 2024, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

**Attendees:** Sean Schoville, Patrick Masson, Dominique Brossard, Tom Bryan, Sara Gragg, Samer Alatout, Beth Olson, Tara LaRowe, Zhou Zhang, Ivan Rayment, Bradley Bolling, Sheldon Du, Garret Suen

**Not present:** William Tracy, Zuzana Burivalova, John Shutske, Aurelie Rakotondrafara, Nick Balster

**Ex Officio:** Glenda Gillaspy

**Guests:** Megan Ackerman-Yost, David Wright Racette

The meeting started at 1:01 p.m.

**1. February 4, 2024, minutes approval**

*Samer Alatout made a motion to approve the February 4 meeting minutes. Sara Gragg 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. Program Name Change**

**Science Communication, BS (from Life Sciences Communication)**

**3. Program Name Change**

**Science Communication, MS (from Life Sciences Communication)**

**4. Program Name Change**

**Science Communication Doctoral Minor (from Life Sciences Communication)**

Items 2-4 were considered together. Dominique spoke briefly about the name changes. LSC already has an undergraduate certificate in Science Communication, a graduate/professional certificate in Science Communication, and a newly approved PhD in Science Communication and they want consistent naming across programs. The name change will help communicate with alumni and employers as well.

**Question:** Did you talk with Communication Arts?

**Answer:** Yes, they were supportive.

Dominique spoke briefly about the Graduate program recruiting for the new Science Communication PhD program. This is a transition year for new applicants. They have close to 45 applicants without advertising. This participation is consistent to what the program has seen in previous years. The department is doing a thorough rebranding with alumni to explain the future of the program.

*Samer Alatout made a motion to approve all three program name changes. Beth Olson seconded. There was a unanimous vote to approve.*

## **5. Request for Support: Certificate in Applied Social Research**

Megan explained that the requests for support from L&S for items 5-7, were received by email to CALS. This means the requests were already approved by their home college then requests for support are sent out to the other schools/colleges. It is expected that L&S has talked to any interested/affected departments in CALS prior to sending the college the request for support.

The certificate in Applied Social Research came from the Sociology Department. The Certificate in Applied Social Research will ultimately replace the Concentration in Analysis & Research named option in the Sociology major.

Samer explained CES and Sociology jointly administer a PhD program in Sociology and L&S communicated with Nan (CES Department Chair) about the certificate proposal. Looking at the courses offered, it's really a methods certificate. CES does have some applied courses and research methods courses.

Dominique said LSC was listed as an interested department. This certificate will be nice for LSC undergrads. LSC has a methods class but it is more big data. This certificate will be a nice compliment to LSC.

*Samer Alatout made a motion to support the Certificate in Applied Social Research. Dominique Brossard seconded. There was a unanimous vote to approve.*

## **6. Request for Support: Certificate in Business Spanish**

Megan explained this is a new certificate in the Spanish & Portuguese Department. ADS and AAE were listed as interested departments. ADS said they were in favor of the certificate. There was no further discussion.

*Sean Schoville made a motion to support the Certificate in Business Spanish. Garret Suen seconded. There was a unanimous vote to approve.*

## **7. Request for Support: Certificate in Geospatial Data Science**

Megan explained that there were some CALS departments L&S reached out to. SES was one CALS department that responded in support of this certificate.

**Question:** Did FWE respond?

**Answer:** No

*Sean Schoville made a motion to support the Certificate in Geospatial Data Science. Samer Alatout seconded. There was a unanimous vote to approve.*

#### Informational Items

### 8. Incomplete Policy – update for undergraduates

Megan explained that at the request of college/schools the university is working on a uniform incomplete policy with a standard deadline. When this university policy goes into effect fall of 2025, it will change CALS current incomplete policy. To be eligible for an incomplete grade, the student must be earning a passing grade and have a limited amount of work to complete by the end of the term.

This university-wide policy change is good for students and reflects what we often see with students. Students typically resolve their incompletes within 4 weeks of the next term after an incomplete was given. The university-wide policy will align the incomplete grades lapse date for unresolved incomplete grades to the end of the 8th week of classes in the following term (excluding summer term) regardless of enrollment status, for all undergraduate students. This policy change will also enable advisors and students to make good decisions about their coursework.

**Question:** If students have incompletes across multiple courses, do they have other mechanisms like a withdrawal without penalty?

**Answer:** Yes, withdrawal is an option. This situation affects a minority of students. It's most common to have an incomplete in only one class. The incomplete and withdrawal do not have financial penalties for the student as long as they do so by university deadlines.

**Question:** When will this take effect?

**Answer:** Fall of 2025

Glenda opened the floor for questions. Glenda led a discussion on the uncertainty of federal funds and how it is and may impact the college. CALS leadership is preparing for every scenario imaginable. For now, continue working as usual but proceed conservatively with fund use. Glenda will be holding regular update meetings with department chairs, dept admins, Center Directors & admins. RISE hiring is still moving forward.

The meeting ended at 1:52 p.m.