

CALS Academic Planning Council  
6201 Microbial Sciences Building  
April 1, 2025, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

**Attendees:** Sean Schoville, Patrick Masson, Dominique Brossard, Samer Alatout, Beth Olson, Tara LaRowe, Ivan Rayment, Zuzana Burivalova, John Shutske

**Not present:** Zhou Zhang, Bradley Bolling, Garret Suen, William Tracy, Tom Bryan, Sara Gragg, Sheldon Du, Aurelie Rakotondrafara, Nick Balster

**Ex Officio:** Glenda Gillaspy

**Guests:** Jeri Barak, Troy Runge

The meeting started at 1:04 p.m.

1. **March 4, 2025, minutes approval**

*Samer Alatout made a motion to approve the March 4th meeting minutes. Beth Olson seconded. A simple majority voted in favor to approve. Minutes were approved and will be posted to the APC website.*

2. **Proposal to Create a New L&S Department of Biology**

Jeri Barak gave members three minutes to review documents shared in Box then asked members to talk in small groups about what this committee's response to L&S should include.

**Question:** Is it about the merger or the proposed department name?

**Answer:** The name is really important. Biology means they will cover all biological sciences, and they do not.

L&S teaches introductory biology courses and CALS advises all the biology majors.

**Question:** If this merger happens, what is the revenue flow?

**Answer:** Biology is the largest major in CALS. L&S gets CFI for teaching and CALS does not for advising.

We should endeavor to create something that stands the test of time 10 years from now, 50 years from now. The current merger document does not make this clear.

The new department needs to have an adjective associated with the Biology name. It's too broad for that name to be given to one group. An alternative name could be Integrative Biology. There has to be an adjective, but not all adjectives will work. It has to be appropriate, and CALS should be a part of that conversation.

**Question:** Are there any changes in the i-bio major?

**Answer:** Intro biology courses did a self-review in 2024. There is no evidence that CALS was involved in this self-study. They have a group to do a holistic review, and Jeri is on that committee. Jeri is asking if we can expand by one by adding a CALS instructor.

151 is very linear (animal physiology), 152 is plant physiology. Bacteriology feels students are not getting fundamental biology knowledge to aid in future courses. 151 is being offered to CALS first year students in the fall 2025. There is no evidence to support that CALS students would not be successful as first years in 151/152.

CALS is moving forward with prepared advisors and folks will be present at SOAR in fall 2025. We are hoping for 200 students. Currently there is no learning support for students that take this sequence. CALS is going to hire some peer mentors.

3. **Dean Gillaspie set aside the next 15 minutes for questions and college updates.**

**Question:** Do you know who populates Reddit information on grant cuts?

**Answer:** There is an official listing of stop work orders on grants. There are currently less than seven. There are some large grants that have been awarded but not paid out. There is concern about the number of USDA grants available for the next round. There have been no recissions. The University RSP has a listing of all grant information. There are cases where what the government is doing is illegal.

There is concern about how this will affect our assistant professors. There should be something official to deal with this situation. Is this like during covid and we grant extra time? Example: You have a highly ranked award but could not get it because of the current situation. The college will take this into account and there will be modifications. Continue your good work.

People are being starved off and there will be long range effects. Industry, big pharma, ag and farmers are the people who will speak up. Folks associated with AI will still need our data.

**Question:** Referring to DEI efforts, there feels like less support there. These people are hurt and demoralized.

**Answer:** The University has not gotten our state audit results yet. We have made

changes at the college level. We now have the Office of Student Engagement. We need ways to engage students to continue the work. This work is for all of us to do.

The meeting ended at 2:01 p.m.