

CALS Academic Planning Council  
6201 Microbial Sciences Building  
August 26, 2025, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

**Attendees:** Dominique Brossard, Beth Olson, Tara LaRowe, Garret Suen, Christopher Choi, Russ Groves, Damon Smith, Daniela Drummond Barbosa, Elizabeth Wright

**Not present:** Zuzana Burivalova, Nick Balster, Tom Bryan, Sara Gragg, Aurelie Rakotondrafara, William Tracy, Samer Alatout, Sheldon Du. Tom Bryan

**Ex Officio:** Glenda Gillaspy

**Guests:** Jeri Barak, Megan Ackerman Yost

The meeting started at 1:03 p.m.

1. Dean Gillaspy welcomed the new APC membership. There is a representative from each department on the council. APC members are the conduit back to their departments and this is a way to share feedback with the Dean.

2. **May 6, 2025, minutes approval**

*Garret Suen made a motion to approve the May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Dominique Brossard seconded the motion. A simple majority voted in favor to approve. Minutes were approved and will be posted to the APC website.*

3. **Federal Updates**

- Troy Runge shared federal updates.
- Looking at the numbers, grants as a college and as an institution are down. Fed grants went from \$100M down to \$60M.
- Good news is things are starting to return to normal. There has been an uptick of NIH and NSF awards and some USDA trickling in.
- Universities from across the nation have banded together starting with APLU to address indirect costs. New model called FAIR.

**Question:** If APLU and the Big 10 coalesce, how does that translate into federal government administration listening?

**Answer:** The FAIR model distinguishes between different types of space. Because of that transparency, universities are having discussions with federal agencies.

**Question:** What committees or groups at the federal level are taking on responsibility and what kind of advocacy do we have at the state level?

**Answer:** Office of Management and Budget negotiates. One-on-one each university works with them, but all universities are coming up with a singular process with standard numbers. The UW is talking to our senators and congress. Crystal Potts and Mitch Goettl are working hard at the state level as well as DIH.

Craig Thompson will start meeting with CALS leadership. New hire Elizabeth “Izzy” Hill for federal relations in Washington will work closely with Laura Phillips.

**Question:** Regarding USDA applications, some faculty are asking whether they should prepare for resubmission.

**Answer:** UW is taking advice from Lewis-Burke Associates (lobbyists in Washington). If you received a high rating but did not get funded, you should contact your program manager.

#### **4. Low Enrollment Academic Programs**

- Every year the college provides campus with a report about low enrollment programs. For every award we give out there are minimums established by the Universities of Wisconsin. A 5-year total snapshot is what is evaluated.
- If a program falls below the minimum, they need to provide a report about why, what they are doing to change this and why it is important for this program to continue. Traditionally the report is written by the programs and signed off by the dean but the college wants input from others in the college.

**Question:** Is there a consistent trend for these programs? It would be helpful to have context on how the data supports the numbers. For example, was there a training grant or was there a leadership change?

**Answer:** The college should look at the data and share it with APC.

- The masters is the most common program that blips in and out of achieving the minimums.
- Some programs have direct admit and some do not and that can affect the awards given.
- Folks who have under enrolled programs should share how their department has been discussing the issue. Folks from successful programs can share the activities done to keep the program robust.

#### **5. College Updates**

- The college has a student mental health counselor that we co-fund with student health services. She provides service for CALS students located in Ag Hall.
- A department chair's retreat was recently held where the focus was on understanding the college's budget.

#### **6. CALS & L&S Aug 25<sup>th</sup> meeting update**

- There were 73 people on the call between CALS and L&S to discuss the new department name once the departments of Botany and Integrative Biology merge in L&S.

- Any decision made today will have long term consequences.
- Jeri asked faculty to attend the next UAPC meeting September 18<sup>th</sup> where the Provost will make a decision on the department name.

The meeting closed at 2:41 p.m.