

## CALS ACADEMIC PLANNING COUNCIL

November 6, 2018

1:00 PM-2:30 PM

2321 DeLuca Biochemical Sciences Building, 440 Henry Mall

**Present:** Erika Anna, Jane Collins, Claudio Gratton, Barb Ingham, Chuck Kaspar, Hasan Khatib, Larry Meiller, Paul Mitchell, Nicole Perna, Doug Soldat, Alan Turnquist

**Absent:** Jeri Barak, Guy Groblewski, William Tracy

**Ex Officio:** Kate VandenBosch, Karen Wassarman, Heidi Zoerb, Bill Barker, Dick Straub

**Minutes:** Nikki Bollig

The meeting was called to order at 1:01pm.

There were no changes to the agenda.

Minutes were reviewed from the October 16<sup>th</sup> APC Meeting.

**Paul moved to approve; Larry seconded; unanimously approved**

### Consent – N/A

### Action and Discussion Items

1. Landscape and Urban Studies Major (L&S)

The Landscape Architecture department and associated programs moved to L&S in 2017. The proposal for a Landscape and Urban Studies major is the non-professional BS major offered by the new Planning and Landscape Architecture department. Admissions to the CALS nonprofessional BS offering were suspended effective Spring 2018. The non-professional major will move to L&S effective fall 2019. Concurrent with the move, the department is seeking to make modifications to the major, including a name change and changes to the curriculum, in part, to help position the major within a L&S liberal arts BA/BS degree.

**Paul moved to write a letter of support from CALS; Larry seconded; unanimously approved**

2. Notice of Intent to Plan – Data Science Major (L&S)

Bret Larget from Statistics joined the committee to provide an overview of the vision for the Data Science undergraduate major to be offered through L&S. The proposal has been approved by L&S APC and is scheduled for UAPC review in November. L&S is requesting a letter of support from CALS.

The proposal is spearheaded by faculty from departments of Math, Stats, and Comp Sci and will have a representative program committee, similar to the structure of the Biology major. It is designed to be an additional major as complementary to a student's primary major across schools/colleges. The faculty have a vision to also create a certificate program that would require fewer courses with similar learning goals. Bret provided an overview of the curriculum, which includes five core courses (four of which are new), a structured electives component, with possible inclusion of CALS courses, and a capstone experience. Intention is to submit full proposal in spring 2019 for approval to open to students in fall 2020.

Would CALS faculty be invited to contribute to the program committee? Initial program committee is focused on the proposal and wants to connect to other programs on campus. L&S requested names of possible participants from Kate, and Kate forwarded potential names as determined by department chairs. The planning committee has not yet determined who would serve on the program committee.

Have you considered how the major will fit for students in other majors considering 30-40 additional credits to complete? It will depend on student situations, but some of the majors have math and stats overlaps. The committee has not yet looked at any particular majors in detail.

Is this program using the data scienc report released earlier this fall? In particular looking at other programs and benchmarking and the appeal of Data Sci + X model of majors. An ad hoc committee is reviewing the report to include faculty beyond Computer Science. Bret does not anticipate that the committee will follow this report directly in planning this major due to the desire to leave the major open to students from a variety of backgrounds. Advising could offer suggestions for students to complement courses if they are not interested in the full major.

Proposed curriculum seems limited to math/stats/comp sci and therefore difficult for students to apply their primary major; however, the program may consider offering another elective path that is more applied. Combining students who are strong in math/computing and domain knowledge is critical to the learning process. CALS would like to be active participant in the conversation, especially with regard to application in diverse domain areas.

**Barb moved to write letter of support from CALS with request to include CALS participants in the planning committee and recommendation to consider viability of CALS majors completing the major due to required math; Nicole seconded; unanimously approved**

3. Agroecology MS Program review (second review)

Steve Ventura, faculty chair of the Agroecology Program, felt the review was very fair and highlighted the ongoing challenge of staffing the two core courses (701 and 702). Short-term solution is to create a version of 701 that integrates biological and social sciences and find other courses on campus that can fulfill the 702 requirement. Additionally, the program learned that the Graduate School would no longer provide fellowships because the program was not viewed as preparing students for PhDs; however, this is not the case based on student outcomes. The program has applied to the Graduate School to receive the fellowships again including letters of support from several CALS and campus departments.

1. Will you comment further on the climate of the program? What feedback have you received from students, staff, or faculty about climate, and how do you seek this type of information?

The program is small and cohorted, so the climate seems strong. There are multiple opportunities for students to provide feedback regarding the climate (e.g., informal discussions, student representation on governance committee, survey, exit interviews, course evaluations). There are also examples of changes made due to student feedback (e.g., binary gender question on course evaluation was modified). Lack of central space is a structural flaw of an interdisciplinary program. The program has worked hard to socialize the students to combat this issue, and students occasionally relate well with their mentor's department. Space issues are fairly common to other programs as well.

2. What is the relationship of Agroecology to similar programs in CALS? On campus? Are there unexplored opportunities for collaboration or synergies, especially with other CALS programs including Horticulture, Plant Breeding & Plant Genetics, and Plant Pathology?

Faculty in the program are drawn from 8-9 departments in the college with affiliates outside of the college, representing both biological and social sciences. Connections occur via advising with faculty in other departments through the students themselves. Faculty serve on the governance committee with occasional input solicited from a broader faculty audience. There is also administrative coordination between the departments as many of the students are supported on grants from other departments.

3. What percentage of students pursue a dual degree in a related program (e.g., Soil Sci)?  
No dual degrees, but one third of students pursue joint degrees in a variety of disciplines.

4. The administrative structure of the program not having a department home was discussed, and the council would like to hear more about the pros and cons of this structure and if the program has considered seeking a departmental home. The program has a very strong manager now, but how will institutional memory be retained if/when Alan Turnquist leaves his current role? How will faculty numbers and interest be maintained?

Ventura believes it is problematic from an academic perspective to situate within a department because the interdisciplinary nature would devolve and would not attract broad interest from students. It was suggested interdisciplinary aspect would be maintained through a program committee to avoid erosion of interdisciplinary nature. Ventura expressed concern about perception over time that the program would be viewed as the department's. It was suggested that not being located within a department may place an unnecessary burden on program faculty and staff because of the importance of being at a variety of campus-wide meetings and committees. Ventura stated Agroecology was created as a result of a cluster hire, and those faculty remain committed to the program. Question: proposed undergraduate major in Agricultural Ecosystems may experience similar challenges; would it make sense to align the admin home with this conversation? And Agroecology may be wise to offer leadership in these developments. In some sense, Ventura believes they have as leaders of the Food Systems Certificate.

Regarding funding issues for some students, it was recommended they consider encouraging students to serve as graders, especially to support extension faculty since students may only have guaranteed funding for one of three years. This has been successful in some other programs.

5. In their report, the review committee recommends regularly offering the 701/702 core courses and offers suggestions for managing the teaching of these courses. What strategies does the program intend to take to address this challenge?

Discussed above. Committee had recommended creating a three-year teaching plan. Three years may be too ambitious, but they attempt to plan ~1.5 years out, and intend to assess the 701 fall offering before committing long-term.

6. Given the challenges of recruiting a diverse student body, has the program considered removing the GRE requirement for admission, as is becoming more common across campus programs?

Challenge of the program is similar across the college in finding students from non-traditional backgrounds and funding for them. Ventura works with Asst Dean Browne and has explored working with student veterans among other groups. Regarding the GRE, there is a trend across campus, and the nation, to drop the GRE requirement. There is extensive literature regarding the bias associated with the GRE, the lack of correlation between score and student success, and how the exam may serve as a barrier for application. It's important for all programs to consider. Graduate Faculty Executive Committee has had discussions about

the GRE as well and encourages programs to, at a minimum, avoid using GRE as a threshold for consideration. Data supporting these statements was distributed to APC after the meeting

**Claudio moved to accept the review as complete; Paul seconded; 9-approved; 0-denied; 1-abstained; motion carries.**

4. Health Promotion and Health Equity Major proposal (Education)

CALS APC saw the NOI for this major last spring. Carolyn Kelley and Bill Hoyt joined the committee to address questions about the proposal. Scheduled for UAPC review in November. Changes since the NOI include reduction of credits to 40 total to be eligible as an additional major. APC members were surprised that Life Sciences Communication was not included as a department of interest, in particular around the process of articulating data to the community. Following the meeting with CALS APC in spring, Education included courses from several CALS departments and would be interested in taking additional recommendations. Larry suggested a topic area with 4-5 LSC courses with few to no prerequisites, some of which are offered online. Many students in LSC are health communicators. Offline conversation between LSC and Education with copies to Wassarman and Bollig to follow up on additional course ideas was requested.

SoHE was suggested for possible partnerships for internships, community involvement, guest speakers, and more related to their extension programming. Education is hoping to build an internship requirement to incorporate at a future date.

How embedded is food within the core requirements? It is not the core of the major, but complements nutrition-related majors well. Emphasis on equity and diversity is core to the major. Requested clarity in marketing to students that there are other programs that address nutritional and other types of health. CALS is working on major in Global Health that would have a little overlap but the two are viewed as complementary.

**Paul moved to write letter of support from CALS; Claudio seconded; unanimously approved**

5. Upcoming State Budget for UW

Heidi Zoerb shared update on upcoming state budget. University has been on a myth-busting campaign to in-state voters and citizens (e.g., accessibility, affordability, graduation rates, WI student location outcomes, student debt load). Regents passed System budget request in August 2018, and state budget will be released in February 2019. State-wide pay plan is not part of the UW System request because it is considered separately by the governor. Outreach underway to alumni and friends to advocate on behalf of the university. To what degree is WI no longer a state institution? WI remains in the middle of the pack nationally, and much of what defines a state-run institution is related to how decisions are made versus where funding is coming from. Budget-related toolkit available at [www.budget.wisc.edu](http://www.budget.wisc.edu). Heidi and University Relations are available to speak with groups as requested. UW-Madison has had decrease in operating budget of \$86 million from budget cut and tuition freeze.

**Informational Items**

6. Update on searches

- Search for Director of Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems closed, and there is a viable pool. There will be public talks and feedback requested from the college. These dates have not been set yet.

- Search to replace Sarah Patterson for SciMedGRS, which supports graduate students of diverse programs, is progressing. The four cooperating schools/colleges (CALs, SMPH, VetMed and Engineering) have agreed on a PVL. Bill will be working with the other schools/colleges to establish a search committee before the PVL can be posted.
- Search for Asst Director of CALs Global (vice John Ferrick). Jennifer Kushner, from Cooperative Extension, has accepted the position and will begin **December 10, 2018**.

7. Update APC 5 year self-study subcommittee

Kate will contact a few people on the committee to request participation on the subcommittee. Doug already volunteered.

Meeting adjourned at 2:31pm.