

# CALS Academic Planning Council Minutes

6201 Microbial Sciences Building

March 3, 2020, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

**Attendees:** Hasan Khatib, Rick Lindroth, Scott Lutz, Guanming Shi, Michael Bell, Nicole Perna, Jill Wildonger

**Not Present:** Jamie Nack, Barb Ingham, Erika Anna, Jeri Barak, Bill Tracy, Guy Groblewski, Xuejun Pan

**Ex Officio:** Karen Wassarman, Megan Ackerman-Yost

**Minutes taken by:** Sarah Barber

Welcome

Review agenda

Revisions to current agenda

## Consent Agenda

1. Approve minutes for January 21 meeting (materials in Box)

Due to lack of quorum, minutes were not approved this meeting.

## Action and Discussion Items

2. APC review subcommittee discussion with APC members

Committee members elected to use the first 30 minutes to have informal discussions among council members before convening the meeting.

3. CALS Guidelines for Topics Courses (found in [Box](#))

Nick Balster, Curriculum Committee Chair, presented a proposal for new guidelines for topics courses in CALS. Over the last few years, campus has modified its topics courses guidelines:

- Topics course sections should be offered no more than three times within a five-year period.
- Topics courses should rarely, if ever, be used to fulfill core requirements in a major or certificate.
- Beginning in 2019, campus began providing schools/colleges with an annual report that documents topics course sections that have been taught more than three times in a 5-year period with the expectation of school/college oversight on these matters.

The Curriculum Committee has drafted these guidelines to clarify expectations and processes with topics courses. The Curriculum Committee will direct departments to take an initial review of their topics courses.

Discussion:

- It is a pain to go through the course approval process. It is one reason why people use 375 topics courses.
- Topics courses give new assistant professors an opportunity to develop a new course for a few years.
- More administrative support from Academic Affairs should be provided. It is difficult to fill out the form.
- The process to get a new course is time consuming. Feels like we need to start proposal during the first teaching to be compliant by the third time.

The Committee would like to bring this back for more discussion to focus on the policy and implementation process proposed by CALS Curriculum Committee.

#### 4. LSC Honors in the Major proposal

Dietram Scheufele, Director of Undergraduate Studies, and Tera Wagner Holtz, Student Services Coordinator, from the Life Sciences Communication provided background on the proposal. The LSC Honors in the Major program is being proposed to provide a formalized opportunity for LSC student to dive deeper into the field of evidence-based science communication research via one-on-one and small group interactions with research faculty through honors coursework and an independent research project culminating in a senior honors thesis that will be presented publicly. Program includes 20 credits of coursework plus senior honors thesis credits

- 15 of the 20 credits are in LSC courses. Students must obtain an average of an AB or better for these 15 credits.

Discussion:

- More than a third of LSC majors double major. Students will not be required to pursue Honors in the Major and can continue to double major in other areas or obtain certificates.
- Students have selected different majors on campus because LSC did not offer Honors in the Major. It is a recruitment tool for major and college.
- Concerns expressed over admission criteria. The admissions criteria is not established by the LSC program. The admission criteria is a college requirement for the Honors Program. A working group will be convened in Fall 2020 to review the Honors Programs in the college.
- APC expressed an interest in having further discussions about Honors programs.
- Support for the proposal expressed by APC members present.

Motion to accept: Bell/Khatib

Vote: Quorum not met. No vote

#### 5. Spitze Land Grant Award – subcommittee recommendation

Hasan Khatib and Michael Bell were on the subcommittee and presented the subcommittee's recommendations. There were exceptional nominations and it was a difficult decision.

All APC members in attendance supported the subcommittee's recommendation.

## Informational Items and Announcements

6. Next APC meeting is March 24

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