

University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire
University Senate Academic Policies Committee
Vol. 55, Meeting No. 17
Tuesday, March 12, 2019
Chancellors Room, 311 Davies

Present: *Members:* Carey Applegate, Janice Bogstad, Selika Ducksworth-Lawton, Joel Friederich, Marquell Johnson, Hans Kishel, Der-Fa Lu, David A. Miller, Darrell Newton, Vicki Samelson
Guests: Margaret Cassidy, Analisa DeGrave, Manny Fernandez, Mary Hoffman, Deb Jansen, Gerardo Licon, Benny Ramirez, Eric Torres

Presiding: Chair Marquell Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from March 5, 2019

- Motion to approve the minutes of March 5, 2019, as distributed. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously (8-0-0).

2. Latin American Studies Program Review

- Manny Fernandez and Benny Ramirez were in attendance to provide information and answer questions. Latin America Studies (LAS) is a strong and unique program. Had difficulty finding a similar program when looking for an external reviewer. Currently have four majors. Steering committee meets regularly, keeps up-to-date on things and makes changes as necessary. Through program array process LAS was asked to increase to 20 majors by 2021, which they are in favor of. Not in favor of elimination of program. Main issue is students aren't aware LAS exists on campus. Next year the program will have two majors - one for those not seeking Spanish proficiency and one for those who are. Proud of everything the program has accomplished. Interdisciplinary program that benefits the university but needs help to get word out both at the University and to high schools. Benny's Ramirez is second-semester freshmen. He began as an ENPH major; however, he wanted a major that engaged his core values. Program provides that along with LE benefits. He is very involved with the program and it is what is keeping him on campus.
- Why does the program have such low enrollment? No. 5 of the submitted progress report discusses the need to follow-up with Career Services. Any updates? What kind of career attraction does the program provide?
 - The program complements other things such as Social Work and Nursing. Can work as an interpreter. Very high record of Fulbright applicants. Unsure why numbers are low.
- Where does LAS go for DII?
 - Professor Licon created a DII that travels to Arcadia, Milwaukee, and Madison so students can learn what Latinos lives are like through a different lens within their own state.
- Are students entering the program provided with a clear professional pathway?
 - Career Services created a sheet that lists options of what you can do with a degree in LAS. Visibility is lacking. People value the major but can't articulate what they want to do with it. ARCC advisers don't see it as a viable option. Marketing issue? Parents see it as an issue. LAS faculty visit Spanish courses and other intersecting courses each semester. One of the slides discusses possible jobs in healthcare, education, and with the State Department. Students who want to major in LAS are discouraged by ARCC, being told it's too complicated and there aren't clearly defined career paths. Have reached out to ARCC. The number of majors may also be a cyclical problem.

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Tuesday, March 11, 2019

- If additional FTE were provided, what would be their role in terms of course offering/curriculum delivery (not workload).
 - Won't minimize workload issue. Professor Licon is a historian who has been subbing in History. CIE's newly established connection with USAC offers a connection to Brazil which is an obvious gaping hole in LAS curriculum, and is something that could be added. Would also like to offer Portuguese which would help to make the program more varied in Language. Because program is interdisciplinary, other departments are needed to help. Would prefer a 100% appointment within LAS, who could then be loaned out to other departments, which would provide more control and stability for the program and make it less vulnerable to depending on others.
- What do you have in mind to generate more students for program?
 - Made changes to one major which will be more distinguishable and requires a lower language proficiency, hopefully attracting more students. Adding more courses in different programs. The hope is that by opening up the major to students from other disciplines, thus widening the pool of students to be drawn from, will also increase the number of majors. Concern that it doesn't go into Catalog until 2019-2020, not leaving much time for the program array request. Feel that eliminating the major is an extreme measure when there isn't a lot of time to make changes; there are other options. Currently offering additional sections of LAS 150 to increase exposure to students. Considering offering it at different times and days and in smaller sections to allow for more instructor contact.
- Possible for students with comprehensive majors, such as CSD, to double major with LAS? A lot of students with interest in working in urban areas and serving these cultures and populations are choosing Spanish, why not LAS?
 - Have had double majors and even a triple major. It is feasible. Number of electives which can count for both majors. The new major may benefit those students not interested in developing their Spanish but having background. There is no particular reason why they should choose Spanish over LAS. Can develop Spanish context and language as an LAS major. This is the issue with LAS – students choosing Spanish instead.
- Finance major considering Spanish or LAS. Was dissuaded because parent felt LAS is not marketable. Spanish proficiency cannot be shown on a resume with LAS, better to say Spanish major. What does LAS portray vs. Spanish. Just a line on a CV when in reality could add a line highlighting the proficiency.
- Program Review Form Discussion
 - No 3 – That model doesn't exist anywhere, but LAS asking for it. Committee recommends leaving checkbox blank, is a discussion LAS should have with the Provost
 - No 7 – Committee agrees with department, elimination is too extreme of an action, only savings identified is cost of director, need time for new major to be implemented and percolate, number of majors could be cyclical, should only be a "check-in" (see IRCs comments) in 2021 and not elimination, have few majors but providing a lot of services to other majors and university/EDI

Chair Marquell Johnson adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Forcier
Secretary for the Meeting