Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from April 19, 2022
   - Motion to approve the minutes of April 19, 2022, as submitted. Motion was seconded and approved (8-0-0).

2. Department of Geography & Anthropology Program Review
   - Ezra Zeitler was in attendance to provide information and answer questions. Addition of Geospatial Analysis and Technology comprehensive major biggest change since previous program review, but it hasn’t grown at the anticipated rate. Also lost two faculty who teach in the major. Graduating majors are well placed in above entry-level jobs. Due to flexibility within majors, have been able to retain students and use a 2-year degree plan to keep students on track toward graduation even though majors typically declare late. Switch to LE Core helped streamline students’ education. Certificates are doing well. Anthropology minor replaced with a certificate; only one person administering and teaching the courses, it is a challenge to offer courses needed to satisfy the certificate. Prior to pandemic had 153 majors, one of largest undergrad geography programs in Midwest, but negatively affected by pandemic. Have developed new courses, looking forward to working more closely with WGSS and AIS.
   - Reason seminars/capstones occur at same time?
     - Faculty preference, logistics, and interpersonal needs; most prefer to take 12 students. Also due to students typically declaring the major late and the need for better coordination of departmental advising. Challenging to meet with majors on a regular basis, a lot of majors choose not to meet. Lack of communication leads some students to delay field seminar until the semester they graduate. Think department is doing better communicating upcoming field seminars and planning them further in advance. With the decrease in the number of majors due to pandemic, allowing department to catch up.
   - Where is department in navigating the GIS field to where it needs to be?
     - Department has begun streamlining GIS curriculum and is in a better place with staffing than a few years ago.
     - Concern with Rozario being over-utilized. How is department navigating her load? Faculty in lower-enrolled courses would be comfortable assisting should she become tenure-track. It is a departmental priority and will adjust teaching schedules if needed. Have used WIN/SUM funding to support hiring Eau Claire’s GIS Administrator Peter Strand to teach one GIS course per semester.
     - Can IAS be moved to tenure-track? Do have ability sometimes, following a couple of regulations. Need to be able to demonstrate that doing a search wouldn’t be a larger benefit to department, can do an opportunity-hire based on available resources
If cost-sharing for technology doesn’t happen, what is the impact on department?
- Remote sensing software is $5,000-6,000/year and would be a significant impact. Most students get jobs using that software/rely on it. Aspirations to do fundraising, have an endowment to use toward cost, receive some support from Biology and Geology. Committed to software. Due to size of data, need to save to desktops and not the Cloud.
- CS and MSE students use the software for research too, try to make it more accessible to other departments

Because the advising survey wasn’t effective due to being administered too infrequently, how is department moving forward?
- Because most advising is done ad hoc, working to include a QR or weekly email to students asking them to submit a survey.

What happens if Administration doesn’t support hiring a climatologist?
- Applied for the position multiple years, anticipating need due to an upcoming retirement (Running). For over 2 decades, Faulkner/Jol/Running have maintained GEOG 104 for 140-160 students; the course produces majors, HIPs, labs, uses student assistants. The SCH allows the instructors to teach an upper-level physical geography course once per semester. Without a tenure-track person, continuing in this format will be difficult. There is a visiting climatologist arriving in the fall. If the department can hire a tenure track, would be able to pursue connections with various disciplines. It’s an important position for students, the department, and the university.

Program Review Form Discussion: No. 17 – Can leave blank and state that it is outside of APC’s purview. All in favor of leaving No. 17 blank. Approved (9-0-0).

Chair Marquell Johnson adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Forcier
Secretary for the Meeting