18 April 2014

TO: Paul DeLuca, Provost

FROM: John Karl Scholz, Dean

RE: Request to Discontinue L&S Program, MS, PhD in Endocrine and Reproductive Physiology

CC: Ian M. Bird, Director, Endocrinology and Reproductive Physiology Graduate Training Program
    Kelly Haslam, Assistant Dean for Academic Assessment and Funding
    Elaine Klein, Assistant Dean for Academic Planning, L&S
    Jocelyn Milner, Associate Provost and Director, Academic Planning and Analysis
    Rick Moss, Associate Dean, SMPH
    Donna Paulnock, Associate Dean for the Biological Sciences, Graduate School
    Eric Wilcots, Associate Dean for the Natural and Mathematical Sciences, L&S

On April 15, 2014, the L&S Academic Planning Council considered the attached request to discontinue rarely conferred L&S credentials, an MS and PhD in Endocrine and Reproductive Physiology. This request was prompted by the expectation that all graduate programs document compliance with new HLC and GFEC policy; given that there are no student enrolled in this program and no distinct L&S program requirements, it seems that the administrative burden has now exceeded the curricular benefit to maintain a distinct credential.

We note that even though this low-enrollment program will be discontinued in L&S, it is not a “low enrollment” program, and it will still be available to students through the School of Medicine and Public Health and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. We anticipate that L&S faculty will continue to participate in the ERP graduate training program, and expect that if any L&S faculty should wish to mentor students in this area, they will be able to do so via other mechanisms (as faculty affiliated with the ERP, or through special committee degrees).

The L&S APC unanimously approved this request.
To: Dean Scholz  
From: Ian M Bird, Director Endocrinology and Reproductive Physiology Graduate Training Program.  
Date: 05 April 2014  

RE: Listing of ERP Program under L&S.

In response to a dialogue concerning deposition of HLC templates for degree programs we have examined our student registration through L&S and find it is now a rare event. In view of the predominant enrollment of our students through CALS and SMPH at this time, we request the listing of ERP under L&S discontinue, and we offer our thanks for all your support over the past decades.

Best wishes

[Signature]

Ian Bird
Correspondence regarding discontinuation of L&S ERP programs

Dean Scholz,

As per the dialogue below I have attached a memo requesting ERP discontinue its listing in L&S. Many thanks and please feel free to contact me if this requires revision.

Prof Ian M Bird
Director Endocrinology reproductive Physiology Program

On 04/04/14, Elaine Klein wrote:
Excellent - Could I trouble you to put that in a memo (very short!) to Dean Karl Scholz, so we can put this on our APC agenda and run it through the chain of approval?

Thank you!
Elaine

On 04/03/14, Ian Bird wrote:
After some consideration we have concluded it would be best to discontinue listing under L&S for the reasons you gave. Many thanks for your allowing us time to consider.

On 04/02/14, Elaine Klein wrote:
It's fine to include Rick Moss, of course.

"Low-enrollment" programs are those that award fewer than 5 degrees in a 5 year period. I don't know about the CALS awards for ERP, but the L&S awards are certainly below that, and not likely to improve in the next couple of years. I'll dig through my email from years ago when I get back in the office (likely on Monday), and send you our last correspondence - but I think, back then, the decision was something along the lines of "why not keep it?"

The change in grad school and UAPC policy may be an argument against that easy "why not?", since the faculty will need to come up with program rules to demonstrate that students are meeting HLC and Grad Fac requirements, in all variations of the degree program. That might be sufficiently annoying to get you and your colleagues into "more trouble than it's worth" territory...

On 04/02/14, Ian Bird wrote:
I have to say I dont recall the details and I am not clear what you mean by low enrollment - can you explain that term? Also is it relevant we are under SMPH? Should we include Rick Moss? Certainly most of our work is with CALS and SMPH but if we discontinue with L&S does that hurt anyone?

On 04/02/14, "Elaine M. Klein" wrote:
Dear Professor Bird,

I'm contacting you today about a topic about which we've corresponded before - the L&S master's and doctoral degrees in Endocrine and Reproductive Physiology. I apologize if you are not the right person to contact with this request, but since my last correspondence on this topic dates back to July 2010, and it was with you, I'm hoping that you can help. Please feel free to forward this question to the proper person. (I've copied the Associate Deans in L&S and CALS who are, I believe, responsible at a higher level for this program.)
As you may recall, L&S has the authority to grant an MS and a PhD in ERP. I don't know much about program activity in this area (other than it being a "low enrollment" program), or if the ERP program came to any conclusions about retaining the L&S side of the program when the ERP was reviewed, as you mentioned it was to have be in 2011.

Today, as you may know, the Graduate School is required to document for the university's accrediting agency, the Higher Learning Commission, that all of our graduate programs meet certain credit requirements and standards concerning graduate level education. Graduate Faculty Policy has been revised, and we have been asked to ensure that all of our graduate programs complete the attached document.

I have no information about the L&S variant of the ERP programs, so I'm inclined to believe we are unable to comply with this request.

As I see it, we can do one of two things: (1) We could allow whatever documentation was submitted by CALS to serve also for the L&S program, too. (2) We could recognize that there may not be any L&S requirements for this program. If there are no L&S requirements, perhaps there should be no L&S program. According to the campus database, there are no students currently enrolled in the L&S variant of the program, and the last student who was enrolled in the program graduated last year. That person was the first person to do so in five years - which means that, if no students are in the pipeline, this program meets the criteria of a "low enrollment" program that should, perhaps, be discontinued.

I'm at a loss for how to respond to the Graduate School's request for information, and I would greatly appreciate your advice,

Elaine

--

***

Elaine M. Klein, Ph.D.
Assistant Dean for Academic Planning, College of Letters & Science
Director of University General Education
307D South Hall
1055 Bascom Mall
Madison, WI 53706
(608) 265-8484 *** emklein@ls.wisc.edu