February 23, 2015

To: Sarah Mangelsdorf
   Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

From: Kathryn VandenBosch
   Dean and Director

RE: Discontinuation of the CALS International Certificate

At its regularly scheduled meeting on February 17, 2015, the College’s Academic Planning Council considered the CALS International Committee’s recommendation to discontinue offering a CALS International Certificate to undergraduates. After discussing the topic, the Council voted unanimously that CALS should discontinue offering this option as of June 1, 2015.

The International Committee cited low student interest, lack of staff resources to promote and manage the program, and a multitude of other campus options for students wishing to pursue international activities as the reasons for discontinuing the certificate. Supporting documents are attached.

We understand this motion requires action by the UAPC and ask that it be placed on their agenda at the earliest possible time. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

cc: Jocelyn Milner
    Richard Straub
    Sarah Pfattteicher
TO: CALS APC

FROM: CALS International Committee (Josh Garoon, Susan Paskewitz, Bill Tracy, Marv Wickens, Todd Courtenay, John Ferrick, Sarah Pfatteicher, Masarah Van Eyck)

DATE: 16 December 2014

RE: Recommendation to Discontinue CALS International Certificate

CC: Curriculum Committee

In its charge for the 2014-15 academic year, the CALS International Committee was asked to recommend to CALS APC by December 2014 a plan for the future of the CALS International Certificate. Admissions to the certificate were formally suspended in Spring 2014 on approval of the UAPC, with the caveat that CALS submit to the UAPC no later than March 2015 a plan to either discontinue or re-open the certificate.

Request:
The CALS International Committee recommends discontinuation of the CALS International Certificate, effective 1 June 2015 (or as soon as reasonably possible after that date).

Background:
Established in 2009 and originally intended as a replacement for the CALS “International Degree” (the Bachelor of Science in International Agriculture and Natural Resources), which closed in 2011, the CALS International Certificate has been a low-enrollment program whose students’ needs the committee believes are now better served by other programs on campus.

In the first four years of the certificate program, only four students enrolled in and graduated with the CALS International Certificate. The CALS International Committee members deem the overall enrollment to be below the threshold for a viable program, and believe that college resources would be better directed toward enhancing and publicizing other international opportunities for students. The other available opportunities include:

- 15 internationally focused certificate programs, including the popular and relatively well-resourced Undergraduate Certificate in Global Health
- 17 internationally focused majors
- At least 10 internationally focused FIGs that include one or more CALS courses
- An International [Residential] Learning Community, 8 foreign-language Residential Learning Communities, and one CALS Residential Learning Community with an international focus (the GreenHouse).
- More than 200 study abroad programs
- Foreign language study in more than 50 languages (not including ancient and classical language study)
- BRIDGE program (connecting U.S. students to international students)
- International internships (including those funded by the Madison Initiative for Undergraduates)
- Washington, D.C. Semester in International Affairs

1 As noted on the Academic Planning and Institutional Research website, “According to UW-Madison program review guidelines, programs that award fewer than five (5) degrees in a five-year period are deemed ‘low enrollment’ and are to be reviewed and considered for discontinuation.”
The committee members also note that CALS students are already engaged in a broad array of international experiences.

- 31% of CALS seniors indicate they have either studied abroad or planned to do so (NSSE2011 findings 2)
- 54 CALS students have a second major in a foreign language, International Studies, or other internationally focused majors (see http://www.wisc.edu/academics/majors.php)
- 59% of CALS seniors have completed college-level foreign language coursework (NSSE2011 3), even though CALS does not require such courses.
- 98 CALS students are enrolled in the Undergraduate Certificate in Global Health, and an additional 44 CALS students are enrolled in one of the other internationally focused certificates (see http://www.wisc.edu/academics/majors.php)
- 100% of CALS undergraduates must complete an International Studies course.

Plans for Accommodating Enrolled, Stopped-Out, and Prospective Students:
At the time of the request to suspend admissions, zero students were enrolled. As a result of the publicity surrounding the suspension request, two students stepped forward to say that they had been pursuing the certificate without declaring (apparently under the misapprehension that declaration was a formality they would complete at the end of the curriculum). These two students were permitted to enroll just before the suspension became effective and will be permitted to graduate; both should finish their degrees in May 2015. The CALS Office of Academic Affairs will advise them through the remainder of their curriculum and ensure they finish in a timely manner.

As described in more detail below, the International Committee recommends referring prospective students seeking an international curriculum to the international certificates and majors offered across campus.

Continued CALS Commitment to International Opportunities and Experiences
The CALS International Committee strongly advocates for the continued importance of providing international educational experiences for CALS students, and recommends several action items intended to increase student and advisor awareness of the available opportunities.

1. Review SOAR and transfer workshop materials to ensure that students new to CALS (and the faculty and staff who advise them) are made aware of the range of international opportunities that are available and are encouraged to pursue them.
2. Review the curriculum in Inter-Ag 155: Issues in Agriculture, Environment & Life Sciences (also known as Freshman Seminar) and Inter-Ag 165: Introduction to International Issues in Agriculture and Life Sciences (also known as Freshman International Seminar) to ensure that the more than 300 students in these courses each year are exposed to the international aspects of CALS disciplines and are introduced to the curricular and co-curricular ways they can continue to explore international content and perspectives.
3. Continue to support the CALS International Studies course requirement to ensure that every CALS student receives at least three credits of internationally-focused coursework.
4. Review the websites for CALS International Programs and CALS Academic Affairs to ensure international opportunities (including certificate programs, field study programs, internships, and more) are prominent and easy to find.
5. Continue to support the MIU-funded Internationalizing the Curriculum Awards as well as the staff support for instructor and faculty development around internationalization.
6. Continue college-level development activities aimed at increasing funding for student scholarships to encourage participation in available activities, and funding for developing new activities.

2 http://apir.wisc.edu/accountability/NSSE_2011_school_college_print.pdf
Date: March 31, 2014

To: Kate VandenBosch
Dean, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

From: Paul M. DeLuca, Jr.
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

RE: March 2014 Academic Program Change:

Suspend admission to the CALS International Certificate

I am writing with formal notice that the University Academic Planning Council (UAPC) has approved the proposal to suspend admissions to the undergraduate-level CALS International Certificate, housed within CALS.

We understand that the certificate currently has no students in the pipeline and CALS does not want students to enter the certificate program during this time when the College is undergoing a strategic planning process for international activities. As we agreed at the UAPC meeting, please submit a proposal to either re-open admissions or discontinue the program no later than March 1, 2015.

The suspension of admissions is effective for the current semester, Spring 2014.

Supporting materials are posted here should you need to refer to them:

Please contact Jocelyn Milner (jlmilner@wisc.edu, 263-5658) if you have any questions.

Copies:
Sarah Pfatteicher, CALS
Laura Van Toll, CALS
Steve Hahn, Interim Vice Provost for Enrollment Management
Scott Owczarek, Registrar
Susan Fischer, Office of Student Financial Aid
Philip Hull, Office of the Registrar
Cathy Easter, Bursar
Adele Brumfield, Undergraduate Admissions
Andre Phillips, Undergraduate Admissions
Rebecca (Becky) Ring, Undergraduate Admissions
Wren Singer, Director of the Office of Advising
Teresa Adams, Facilities Planning and Management
Doug Rose, Space Management

John Lucas, University Communications
Toni Good, University Communications
William Heiss, Office of the Secretary of the Faculty
Tim Norris, Madison Budget Office
Clare Huhn, Academic Planning and Institutional Research
Sara Lazenby, Academic Planning and Institutional Research
Michelle Young, Academic Planning and Institutional Research
Jocelyn Milner, Academic Planning and Institutional Research