

MEMORANDUM

To: Rachel Fernflores
Academic Senate, President

Date: December 6, 2010

Filename:

From: Andrew Schaffner
Academic Senate Curriculum Committee, Chair

Copies:

Subject: Quarterly Report, Fall 2010

This was an incredibly busy quarter for a new chair to take his seat! We had seven three hour meetings and nine two hour meetings for a total of 39 hours of face-to-face work – one hour shy of face-to-face meeting times for a four-unit course! As chair I note that most of the members of this committee do not get release time or reduced work-loads from their deans or supervisors. If the administration of this campus values a deliberate and detailed review of hundreds of pages of course proposals (about 10 inches of stacked pages plus follow-up communications) deans and supervisors should be encouraged to provide the appropriate release.

The focus of this quarter was the review of 2011-2013 catalog proposals. We reviewed proposals from all six colleges and have moved packages from two colleges (CSM and OCOB) to the Senate consent agenda with recommendation for approval. With a little more email exchange, the packages from the remaining colleges are expected to be moved to the Senate consent agenda over the quarter break. Considering the time of only the most active committee members (12 of 15) and an average of 2.5 hours/week outside of meetings for faculty members (administrative members surely spend a great deal more time each week), it is estimated that at least 768 person-hours was devoted to the review thus far.

In addition to review and revision of dozens of new and modified courses as well as minor name changes, some notable college program additions were approved as follows:

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATH

BIO: Approval of a general curriculum in biology for students not wishing to pursue a concentration

KINE: Approved replacement of concentrations in Exercise Science and Health Promotion with advising tracks for these areas

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

AGED: Approval of a new BS degree program in Agricultural Communication

ERSC: Approval of a geology concentration

HCS: Approved merger of Crop Sci., Env. Hort. Sci., and Fruit Sci. BS programs into a single degree program with seven concentrations: Agricultural and Environmental Plant Sciences, BS

RPTA: Approval of Sport Management Concentration in RPTA, BS program.

ORFALEA COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Accounting: Approval of a specialization in Financial Accounting, MS Accounting

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

HUM: Approval of Media Arts and Technology minor

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

No additional programs were proposed

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE

No additional programs were proposed

The ASCC very much appreciates the attention that many faculty gave to the development of their curriculum packages. A well-organized, well-documented package that has undergone careful review from the departmental and college committees greatly reduces the review time of the ASCC.

The one area in which many proposals fell short regarded the proper consultation of involved or impacted departments. While our course proposal forms remind faculty of the importance of consultation of other departments, we have no such reminder/forms when making program changes. In many cases program changes can dramatically affect the enrollment planning of departments or impact advising. In some cases the information is simply a matter of courtesy. *In the near future, our committee will examine the development of guidelines to improve consistency in program (new and change) proposals.*

Several existing and new programs make use of "tracks" instead of concentrations as a less formal method to create a cohesive set of classes within a major for some career objective. We currently have policy regarding the definition of concentrations (<http://www.academicprograms.calpoly.edu/academicpolicies/Policies-Undergrad/Concentrations.html>), but have no such policy for tracks. *In the future we will examine the need for such a policy, and if a need is found, we will craft a draft of the policy for Senate review.*

Finally, we noticed the need to be more thoughtful about the treatment of approved electives. Because the registrar is now able to implement approved electives in the degree audit, some programs have produced unwieldy lists that will be difficult to maintain. *Another topic for our future consideration is to consider whether or not we ought to have guidelines for such lists and if so, we will craft a draft set of guidelines for Senate review.*