November 30, 2012

To: Academic Affairs

From: Donald Para, Provost

RE: Provost’s Taskforce on Curricular Policy

CSULB’s academic purpose is to “graduate students with highly valued degrees.” An integral part of this student success initiative is to reduce the excess units and time to degree for our students without sacrificing degree quality. As part of the CSU graduation initiative, the Chancellor’s Office recently redoubled its efforts to limit undergraduate degrees to a maximum of 120 units and to ensure that students graduate without far exceeding the 120 units. Recent changes in financial aid that limit the number of semesters students can receive aid make it imperative that we review our curricular structures to ensure that all of our students have the opportunity to complete their degrees and even explore minors and other courses in a timely fashion. The faculty, staff and administration need to work together to create curricular policies and processes that ensure that the curricula we create do not inadvertently require students to take extra units. To that end, I am working in collaboration with the Academic Senate to create a Task Force on Curriculum Policy.

The Task Force will explore best practices in curricular policy by addressing the following questions:

1. How do we best balance the development of general education skills and mastery of the discipline? How does this balance differ between colleges or programs?
2. How do we allow for and control the pursuit of multiple degree objectives?
3. How do we account for hidden prerequisites, requirements or proficiencies?
4. How can the sequencing and scheduling of courses support timely graduation?

The Curricular Policy Task Force shall submit a report of its conclusions to the Academic Senate and the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, including recommendations for policy by the end of Spring 2013.
Composition

- Chairs: Cecile Lindsay, Vice Provost, and Lynn Mahoney, Associate Vice President
- Associate Dean, appointed by Provost
- Two Department Chairs, one each appointed by the Dean’s Council and the Department Chairs Advisory Committee
- One student member selected by the ASI
- One representative from the Office of Academic Programs
- One staff member who serves as an undergraduate advisor selected by AVP for Undergraduate Studies
- Seven (7) faculty members from across the University, at least 4 of whom shall be tenured or probationary, with expertise or a strong interest in curriculum and student success, General Education or academic advising. (It is recommended that consideration be given to faculty members who are serving/have served in an advising capacity.)

Timeline

December 2012  Academic Senate Executive committee solicits nominations for faculty representatives by December 10 and will forward the list of recommended representatives to the Provost by December 11.
January 2013  Faculty representatives announced.
Feb-May 2013  Task Force meets.
May 2013  Task Force presents completed report to Provost and Academic Senate chair.