California State University, Long Beach

Curriculum and Educational Policies Council

Meeting 1, 2015-16

BH-302

Wednesday, September 9, 2-4 PM

Attendance: Jermie Arnold; Marie Botkin; Chris Brazier; Catherine Cummins; Mary Celsi; Jen-Mei Chang; Neil Hultgren; I-Hung Khoo; Cecile Lindsay; Panadda Marayong; Larry Martinez; Caitlin Murdock; Huong Tran Nguyen; Danny Paskin; Shireen Pavri; Maryam Qudrat; Sabine Reddy; Marshall Thomas; Raymond Torres-Santos

1. M/S/P the agenda was approved
2. M/S/P the minutes of the May 13 organizational meeting were approved
3. Introduction of members
4. Election of liaisons to standing committees reporting to CEPC
   1. Academic Appeals Committee: postponed
   2. General Education Governing Committee: Danny Paskin M/S/P
   3. University Grade Appeals Committee: Catherine Cummins M/S/P
   4. Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement Committee: postponed
   5. International Education Committee: Terrence Graham M/S/P
   6. Educator Preparation Committee: Huong Tran Nguyen M/S/P
   7. University Library Committee: postponed
5. Election of liaison to Academic Senate: Chris Brazier M/S/P
6. Discontinuance of the Reading/Language Arts Option in the Master of Arts in Education Degree Program and Specialist Credential (Department Chair of Teacher Education Paul Boyd-Batstone, Interim Associate Dean College of Education Laura Portnoi): M/S/P waived first reading and recommended to the Senate
7. Proposed Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering (BSBMEN) in Department of Biomedical Engineering, College of Engineering (Department Chair of CECS Burkhard Englert, Associate Dean College of Engineering Hamid Rahai): M/S/P waived first reading and recommended to the Senate
8. Review of draft report of the Ethnic Studies Task Force (in relation to curricular and educational policy matters). Collected feedback from council members is attached to these minutes.
9. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

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9 September 2015

Feedback on the Draft Report of the CSU Task Force on the Advancement of Ethnic Studies

The Curriculum and Educational Policies Council (CEPC) affirmed the value of Ethnic Studies and its contributions to the campus and curriculum at California State University, Long Beach and at the California State University more widely. We especially affirmed recommendation #6 of the draft report, regarding the initiatives on community engagement and partnerships.

The CEPC discussed recommendation #1 in detail and considered the possibility of an Ethnic Studies general education requirement throughout the CSU system. Council members expressed concern that an Ethnic Studies GE requirement would be implemented to *replace* the current human diversity in the United States requirement at CSULB. Members indicated that they valued the existing human diversity requirement because it asks students to examine forms of diversity including but not limited to racial and ethnic diversity. Gender, sexual orientation, age, special needs, and other forms of diversity are part of the existing requirement, and it was unclear to the committee whether those would be included in an Ethnic Studies GE requirement were it to substitute the existing human diversity GE requirement.

Responding specifically to the last bullet point of recommendation #3, members from different departments and colleges also questioned the idea that a GE Ethnic Studies requirement would be the responsibility of only the Ethnic Studies program or department, and not of other departments and colleges as well.

Council members also shared concerns about the feasibility of adding a new general education requirement to the current list of requirements, especially when CSULB is under increasing pressure to simplify GE requirements and reduce time to graduation.

Lastly, committee members questioned whether a new GE requirement in Ethnic Studies would actually help solve the problem of shrinking resources for Ethnic Studies programs and departments that is outlined in the report.