Educational Policy Committee Report for 2011-2012

Chair: Janine Gasco

Committee Members: Jill Aguilar, Kirti Celly, Vivian Price

EPC Resolutions

EPC 11-10: Resolution in support for the title 5 “American Institutions” Graduation Requirement for all Undergraduate Degrees at CSU Dominguez Hills and a Commitment to an Equal and Uniform Educational Experience for both Transfer and Native Students. Passed 10/19/11. Senate. See EPC minutes 10/18/11.

Exec Resolutions

These resolutions did not come exclusively from EPC or FPC, but instead were proposed by the entire Executive Committee because they deal with issues that affect both Educational Policy and Faculty Policy, and EPC, FPC, and the Executive Committee all had input in the preparation of these resolutions. See discussions in EPC minutes.


Exec 11-13: Resolution concerning CSU Online Initiative. Passed 12/7/11. Sense of the Senate. See EPC minutes, 10/18/11, 11/7/11, 11/22/11

Exec 12-02: Resolution on Improving Communication in the Process of Evaluating Faculty for Retention, Tenure & Promotion. Passed 4/25/12

Exec 12-04: Resolution on the Membership and Reporting Procedure of Academic Affairs Program Effectiveness council (AAPEC). Passed 4/25/12. See EPC minutes 3/2/12 and EPC/FPC planning meeting minutes, 3/14/12. See also Program Review documents.

Exec 12-06: Resolution on University-wide consultation in Assessment, Planning and Resource Allocation. Passed 5/16/12. See EPC minutes 3/2/12 and EPC/FPC planning meeting minutes. 3/14/12.

Other EPC Business Completed in 2011-2012

The charges for the University Curriculum Committee and the General Education Committee were both revised during the 2011-2012 academic year. These changes bring the UCC and GE Committee in line with EPC 10-12 (which specifies the relationships between the Academic Senate and both UCC and GE).
Additionally, revisions were needed in committee composition to reflect changes in the university structure (changes in colleges). The revised UCC charge was approved by the Senate on Oct. 5, 2012. The revised GE charge was approved by the Senate on March 21, 2012. On April 25, 2012, the Senate approved an amendment to the GE charge that outlined the charge for the Upper Division Integrative Studies Subcommittees of the General Education committee. See EPC minutes 11/07/11.

A faculty request for EPC to investigate campus policies regarding student withdrawal from courses prompted Gasco to contact all deans regarding college policies. Their responses can be found in the EPC report in minutes from Oct. 19, 2011 Senate meeting.

Ongoing/Pending Issues

a) Policies regarding academic dishonesty

In the spring of 2011 EPC was asked to investigate and clarify policies regarding academic dishonesty. An initial meeting to discuss the issues took place on September 21, 2011, attended by Susan Borrego, Mitch Maki, Pat Kalayjian, Sheela Pawar, and Gasco. At the Senate meeting on March 7, 2012, Sheela Pawar provided the Senate with guidelines for faculty to report student academic dishonesty. Susan Borrego also reported that freshmen will now be required to take an online plagiarism course (see Senate minutes for March 7). We expect for further developments in the 2012-2013 academic year. See EPC minutes 10/18/11, 11/07/11.

b) Curricular Review Issues

During the 2010-2011 academic year, some faculty raised concerns about the curricular review process. A meeting was convened on March 4, 2011, and subsequently, over the summer of 2011 and during the course of the 2011-2012 academic year, under the leadership of Tracey Haney, the more user-friendly forms for new, modified, and discontinued courses and programs were revised and are now available at http://www.csudh.edu/academicprograms/ The Curriculum guide is also undergoing an overhaul.

c) Exceeding Enrollment Caps

An ongoing investigation about departmental and college policies regarding enrollment caps revealed that, contrary to university policy, some courses routinely exceed the enrollment caps that were approved during the curricular process. At the time of this report, no conclusions have been reached about how extensive this is. In some cases, faculty have agreed to the increases, but according to policy, enrollment caps may only be exceeded once. If a department intends to continue to teach courses that exceed the number approved during curricular review, the course should be revised and it must go through the normal curricular process.
d) Grade Appeals Policy

In the fall of 2010, Provost Vogel asked the Senate to allow the Provost to make grade appeal decisions over the summer (see Senate minutes 11/17/10 and 12/08/10). However, the proposed changes to the grade appeal policy also involved eliminating the position of Preliminary Investigator in the grade appeal process. The changes were never formally adopted, yet a continuing problem has been finding faculty willing to serve as preliminary investigators. EPC will present possible solutions for the problem in the fall of 2012.

e) Cal State Online and guidelines for online courses

Throughout 2011-2012, EPC was engaged in monitoring the development of the Cal State Online program, and our concerns were reflected in Exec 11-13 (see EPC minutes 10/18/11, 11/7/11, 11/22/11). We are also concerned with the fast pace at which online courses are being adopted on our campus. During 2012-2013 we will continue to monitor the Cal State Online program, and we will begin the process of working with UCC to update guidelines that were approved over 5 years ago.

f) Implementation of Transfer Model Curriculum

Although there do not seem to be many actions for the Senate to take, we are attempting to stay informed about this process. Gasco served on the Southern California team to develop the TMC for Anthropology, which allowed her to learn about the process.

g) Process of Program Review

A gloomy budgetary forecast once again had the campus contemplating some sort of review process that might result in program elimination. The chairs of EPC and FPC were asked by the Provost to consider how this issue might best be addressed. To better understand how review processes had worked in the past, Gasco compiled a summary of documents she could find related to program review (See EPC minutes 3/2/12 and EPC/FPC planning meeting minutes 3/14/12. See also Program Review documents).

Formal meetings (minutes available on Senate Website)

Oct. 18, 2011

Nov. 7, 2011

Nov. 22, 2011

March 2, 2012

EPC/FPC meeting, 3/14/12

EPC also communicates regularly via email to discuss issues.
Submitted by Jan Gasco, EPC Chair 2011-2012