

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO

THE ACADEMIC SENATE

AP-025-178

Reinstatement of M.S. Electrical Engineering (Self-Support)

Academic Programs Committee

Date: 05/22/2018

**Executive Committee
Received and Forwarded**

Date: 10/31/2018

Academic Senate

**Date: 11/07/2018
First Reading**

BACKGROUND:

Starting in 2013, the Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) Department offered a self-support version of its Master of Science in Electrical Engineering program for students at Edwards Air Force Base. This program has graduated 10 students. In Fall Quarter of 2017 the Senate received a referral from the College of Engineering, originated in Curriculog by Dr. M. Ronald Yeung (Associate Dean), requesting discontinuation of the program as part of the semester conversion process. The Academic Programs Committee consulted with the ECE Department (via the chair) and the College of Engineering (via the Associate Dean), and then sent a report to the Senate recommending discontinuation. This was approved by the Senate and President in 2018 as AS-2769-178-AP.

Four faculty from the ECE Department (Dr. Sean Monemi, Dr. Zekeriya Aliyazicioglu, Dr. Ha T Le, and Dr. Tim Lin) have initiated a referral requesting that the program be reinstated. They have indicated in the referral that Northrop Grumman has expressed interest in supporting the cost of attendance for some of their employees.

RESOURCES CONSULTED:

Dr. Halima El-Naga, Chair, ECE Department
Dr. M. Ronald Yeung, Associate Dean, College of Engineering
Dr. Joseph Rencis, Dean, College of Engineering
Dr. Sean Monemi, Professor, ECE Department
Dr. Zekeriya Aliyazicioglu, Professor, ECE Department
Dr. Ha T Le, Assistant Professor, ECE Department
Dr. Tim Lin, Professor, ECE Department
Dr. Howard Evans, Dean, College of the Extended University
Dr. Charlene Ashton, Director of Program Development, College of the Extended University

DISCUSSION and RECOMMENDATION:

The Academic Programs Committee heard many things from the sources consulted; clearly there are complicated questions both of procedure (particularly relating to the maintenance of academically similar state-supported and self-supported programs) and merit (particularly concerning divided opinions in the ECE department). As a body whose goal is to support departments in offering quality programs that comply with campus, CSU, and state policy, the Academic Programs Committee examined three questions:

- 1) Does this proposal have the support of the department?
- 2) In light of semester conversion, does this proposal outline a curriculum built from semester courses?
- 3) Will the program operate in a mode compliant with CSU rules for self-support program?

The first question is one of not just procedure but also merit. The Academic Programs Committee is not a committee of electrical engineers and thus cannot, on its own, determine whether this proposal serves the needs of the intended student audience.

Nor do we know the situation in the ECE department well enough to know if assignment of faculty time to this program (as opposed to other efforts of the department) will have unacceptable effects on the department's other programs. The Curriculum Guide¹ therefore specifies that the initial stages of a program proposal are to be at the level of the Department, the College Curriculum Committee, and the Dean, all of whom are closer to the situation. The Department Chair and Associate Dean, during consultation, did not favor reinstatement of the self-support Master's program.

The Academic Programs Committee agreed unanimously that this issue alone would be sufficient basis to not recommend reinstatement of the program.

2) No curriculum composed of semester courses was submitted with this referral. While there is already a semester-based Master's curriculum in place, the proponents indicated that a self-support program had attracted interest from Northrop Grumman. Given the presumably specialized needs of the employer that would sponsor its employees to participate in this program, it would be useful to see a specific curriculum proposal. It is true that the Academic Programs Committee lacks the expertise to evaluate the specifics of the curriculum, but documentation of communication between a client and the ECE Department would establish that proper preparatory work has been done.

3) One necessary step in proposing self-support programs is demonstrating that the program will not "supplant" existing state-supported programs. This is documented in several places, including the Curriculum Guide² and CSU Executive Order 1099, which states that proposals for a self-support version of an existing state-support program must include "a campus commitment to provide adequate faculty resources."³ We have received no evidence from either the proponents, the Department Chair, or the Dean's office that the assignment of resources to this program would not reduce the faculty resources allocated to the corresponding state-supported program.

On the basis of these deficiencies in the rationale, the Academic Programs Committee does not, at this time, recommend reinstatement of the self-support Master of Science in Electrical Engineering. However, the Committee recognizes that self-support programs have a place in this University, and welcomes proposals that have been initiated at the Department level and approved by the College Curriculum Committee and Dean. If a proposal for reinstatement of this program comes to the AP Committee with Department and College support, the Committee would evaluate the proposal without prejudice.

¹ Chapter 4, page 1, available at https://www.cpp.edu/~academic-programs/scheduling/Documents/Curriculum%20Guide/Curr_Guide_2014_Chap_4_AMP.pdf

² Chapter 4, pages 47 and 57

³ Section 11.1.2.3, <https://www.calstate.edu/eo/EO-1099.html>