

# Status Report on Program Evaluation

2010 September

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In fall 2009, in response to the overwhelming demands of the budget crisis in California, the Division of Academic Affairs embarked on a process of program evaluation in order to assess the continued academic and financial viability of our academic programs. This review was based on the need to strengthen the programs that are vital to our vision for the future. Closure, merger, and other changes to programs that are not thriving academically or financially will give us the resources to invest in the programs that have the greatest potential to excel in teaching, scholarly activity, and service to the community.

In consultation with the deans, I determined that the evaluation would begin by focusing on small programs, defined as roughly fewer than 150 undergraduate or 70 graduate students, and later continue to include large programs. I visited and deliberated with administration, faculty, and staff at colleges and departments with small programs. A set of evaluation indicators was posted at

[http://academic.csupomona.edu/academic/program\\_indicators.aspx](http://academic.csupomona.edu/academic/program_indicators.aspx).

The evaluation indicators were developed in consultation with the deans. They include quantitative indicators such as trends in FTES and degrees awarded as well as qualitative indicators, including uniqueness, centrality to the University mission, future potential, growth, graduate placement, effectiveness of the program's assessment system, faculty creative/scholarly productivity, and external funding. The quantitative indicators were gathered centrally by Academic Affairs. Academic Program Reports describing qualitative indicators were provided by the deans in consultation with their faculty and staff, using rubrics developed by the Deans Council and the Academic Affairs Divisional Budget Advisory Committee.

The evaluations led to continued and fruitful conversations between my office and various academic departments. The following is a summary by college and department of the status of these evaluations and the resulting outcomes as of summer 2010.

### **College of Agriculture**

#### Agricultural Science (Ag Ed)

Discussion with Agricultural Science resulted in the suggestion to merge the program into the Plant Science department. A plan for merger has been drafted and will be included in an omnibus referral to the Academic Senate.

#### Food Marketing and Agribusiness Management (FMAM)

Discussions were held to explore the merger of FMAM into the Plant Science department. A draft proposal has been developed, after extensive discussions by the faculty, and is being refined for the appropriate referral to the Academic Senate via normal curriculum change procedures.

## Human Nutrition and Food Science

A review of the Food Science and Technology program revealed the possibility of sharing a number of resources with Cal State L.A. To assist in the process, the joint program offered by Washington State and the University of Idaho was examined. The “sharing” strategy offered by the department appears encouraging. The Food Science and Technology program is expected to continue its dialogue with Cal State L.A. and to identify by winter quarter 2011 those courses which can be shared by both campuses. Joint programming can lead to Institute of Food Technologists approval, which recognizes programs of high standards and quality.

## Plant Science

In addition to the proposed merger of the FMAM and Agricultural Science programs into the Plant Science department, the faculty of Plant Science has also effectively streamlined their curriculum to significantly reduce the number of upper division course offerings. In May, 2010, Plant Science forwarded a preliminary but promising proposal to provide greater program course scheduling efficiency. On initial review this proposal has the endorsement of the Division of Academic Affairs. Again, a final proposal will become a referral to the Senate.

## **College of Business Administration**

### Accounting

The Master of Science in Accountancy was recently approved and a review in 2009-2010 resulted in an inconclusive picture of the programs status. Given various issues identified by a recent AACSB report, the Dean is preparing a response regarding the concerns expressed and will continue discussions with the Accounting department regarding the MS degree in AY 2010-11.

### Computer Information Systems

The Computer Information Systems department currently offers a small Master of Science in Business Administration with an option in Information Systems Auditing. This program is endorsed by the Dean of the College and effectively bundles existing courses from the College’s MBA program at no additional cost to the Department. The Department has agreed to monitor program progress.

### Technology and Operations Management

Discussions were undertaken regarding the E-Business option offered by the Technology and Operations Management department. The discussions revealed that this program uses no new courses and would incur no new costs, so it in effect uses resources efficiently. The department has agreed to continue to monitor program progress and evaluate its appropriateness to the job market.

## **College of Education and Integrative Studies**

### Ethnic and Women's Studies

An examination of the quantitative data on the Gender, Ethnicity, and Multicultural Studies (GEMS) program raised questions as to its viability. Discussions, however, revealed that the program requires very few unique courses; most are also used for General Education and in other programs. As the GEMS major is central to the mission and vision of Cal Poly Pomona, the decision was made to suspend any final decision until a further examination can be made in 2010-11.

## **College of Engineering**

### Engineering Technology

The three programs in this department (Construction Engineering Technology, Electronics and Computer Engineering Technology, and Engineering Technology) are each being evaluated separately. There was very little progress during 2009-10, and no written proposals or statements were submitted. However, a renewed effort to examine various courses of action is currently under way. This effort should produce a recommended course of action sometime during fall 2010 or winter 2011.

### Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering (IME)

During AY 2009-10, the IME department proposed moving both the BS in Industrial Engineering and BS in Manufacturing Engineering programs to the Mechanical Engineering department. So far, there has been no substantive progress on this proposal.

Although the enrollments in both programs are comparatively small, they serve an important societal need and few alternatives are available in Southern California. Thus, the department is considering various strategies for increasing enrollments, which would make the programs more economically viable and produce more graduates. The department is also considering other ways of improving operational efficiencies. These efforts should produce a recommended course of action during fall 2010 or winter 2011.

## **College of Environmental Design**

### Art

Both options of the BA in Art were reviewed. In the case of the Art History option, the availability of Art History courses at other CSU campuses in Southern California, the likelihood that the number of students in the Art History option would not grow to the 150-student threshold, and the slim prospects for external funding to support the Art History option were considered. After discussions with the department, it was determined that few unique courses were required for the Art History option and that the option's academic quality was sustainable without additional faculty resources. Based on these findings, the decision was made to continue to support the Art History option.

Relating to the Fine Arts option, again, the availability of Fine Arts courses at other CSU campuses in Southern California, the likelihood that the number of students in the Fine Arts option would not grow to the 150-student threshold, and slim prospects for external funding to support the Fine Arts option were considered. In addition, this option demonstrated an urgent need for additional faculty and a strongly negative assessment of the option was delivered by the 2009 accreditation visitors' report on the Art department. Based upon the conclusion that the Fine Arts option was viable only with additional financial resources, it was recommended that the Fine Arts option be discontinued. The process to close the option began in the spring 2010 quarter with a proposal from my office to the Art Department. The proposal will follow normal curriculum change procedures.

#### Lyle Center

The Master of Science degree in Regenerative Studies is under continuing discussion and evaluation with the Director and staff of the Lyle Center. A final decision on its continued viability will be made in fall 2010.

### **College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences**

#### Communication

Discussions were initiated with the Communication department in fall 2009 to examine the continued viability of the Journalism and Organizational Communication options in the Communication major. The department response to the review of the Journalism option was a proposal to simplify the program and to explain the importance of continuing to provide courses for the Public Relations majors as well as support the critical mass needed to produce a campus newspaper. The department will continue to review the program with the Dean and a recommendation will be made in AY 2010-11.

The department response to the review of the Organizational Communication (Org Comm) option was a proposal to streamline the program and cut costs, explaining that important Org Comm content appears in both the Public Relations and Journalism options, and that important GE Area 1 oversight is provided by Org Comm faculty. Based on this feedback from the Communication department, the Provost continues to review the Organizational Communication option and will decide on further steps, in collaboration with all concerned parties, in AY 2010-2011.

#### Institute of New Dance and Cultures

After extended discussions in AY 2009-10 and consultation with various constituencies, a proposal has been sent to my office to merge the Institute of New Dance and Cultures into the Theatre department. I will consult with all concerned parties, per Academic Senate policy, and forward a proposal to the President.

### Economics

A review of the Master of Science degree program in Economics reflected a degree of efficiency and, given the demographic profile of enrolled students, looked promising for possible expansion. A full review of the program is scheduled for AY 2010-2011.

A review of the Bachelor of Science degree program by the faculty of the department of Economics indicated that the number of options had been reduced and the frequency of course offerings decreased. Both actions resulted in a more streamlined and efficient approach to the major. The situation merits continued monitoring for overall effectiveness.

### English and Foreign Languages

After review by the department and discussions with all concerned parties, the decision was made to retain the Spanish program.

### Geography and Anthropology

The department explored various options with the Dean. From those discussions, a commitment was made to further integrate the disciplines of Geography and Anthropology in a more efficient manner. The department proposed the elimination of its third major, Social Sciences, in the interest of focusing on the development of its Geography and Anthropology majors. With the adoption of these structural changes, the evaluation seemed to indicate that the degree programs in the Geography and Anthropology department are operating efficiently.

### History

A review resulted in the recommendation that the Master of Arts program be discontinued as currently constituted. However, a number of alternative options continue to be explored. Based on the conversations occurring in AY 2009-10, the department of History has proposed changes that would make the M.A. program more efficient and more focused on its intended target audience, working teachers. A final decision on this new proposal will be made in AY 2010-2011.

### Kinesiology and Health Promotion

A proposal to move the Kinesiology and Health Promotion (KHP) department from CLASS to the College of Science met with favorable responses from all concerned. I will consult with all concerned parties, per Academic Senate policy, and make a recommendation to the President. A program review of the entire department, including the undergraduate and graduate programs, is scheduled for 2010-11. In March 2010 the pre-credential program was approved by the CTC.

There appears to be support for closing the Sports Nutrition option in the Master of Science program while maintaining the general studies program with three specializations in order to support research activities. It will be incumbent on KHP to provide the expected outcomes for such realignment.

The department, in its review of the Pedagogy Option in the Bachelor of Science program, moved to eliminate tracks and simplify courses.

After an extensive review, it was determined that the Health Promotion option generates little additional cost and relies on courses already offered by other departments. Given these two factors, the Health Promotion Option will be retained. However, it will be revised to remove the two tracks.

#### Philosophy

After review in AY 2009-10, the reviewing parties concluded that the Bachelor of Arts program in Philosophy has a clear focus and readily identifiable goals and outcomes for its students. The Philosophy Department has developed a distinctive program, shaping its curricula and pedagogy to reflect and support the University's polytechnic identity and its mission and vision. As a result, and after consideration of the financial impact of the program, the decision was made to retain the major.

#### Theatre

As a result of analyses of Theatre in AY 2009-2010, the department agreed to merge four of the current five options: Acting, Education and Community, Technical Theatre and Design, and General Theatre, into one option. The effect of this merger would be to reduce the number of unique courses the Theatre department needs to offer, generating organizational and educational efficiencies. An update on these programmatic changes is to be provided by the department in AY 2010-11.

### **College of Science**

#### Biological Sciences

The Department of Biological Sciences has agreed to review the Bachelor of Science degree program in Environmental Biology for course duplications and greater economies. This will be the subject of a review in AY 2010-2011.

#### Chemistry

The Chemistry Department will develop a state-supported course-only Master of Science program focused on three novel and contemporary areas: Environmental/Green Chemistry, Chemistry of Biological Systems, and Structural and Materials Chemistry. The department will aggressively recruit students to grow and sustain this program. A referral on this program will be submitted during fall 2010.

## Geological Sciences

The Geological Sciences department offered strategies for course sharing with Cal State L.A. and also provided strategies for optimizing recruiting. After examination in AY 2009-2010, the department recommended closing the Integrated Earth Studies (IES) program and revised the Geology curriculum with contemporary emphases in Geophysics and Environmental Resources. These changes were approved by the Academic Senate and the President during spring 2010. These strategies appear to be successful in improving efficiency and increasing the number of Geology majors.

## Physics

The Provost will continue discussions with the department regarding the status of the Physics program and will await the outcome of the fall 2010 department retreat conducted as part of the 5-year program review process. The department and program will continue course and resource sharing with Cal State LA and with the College of Engineering at Cal Poly Pomona. The Department will continue to maximize operational efficiencies by offering larger sections to offset low enrollment classes servicing the major. In all scenarios, learning outcomes will be addressed.