

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO

THE ACADEMIC SENATE

AP-017-178

Amicable Split: Early Childhood Studies and Department of Education to Become Two Separate  
Departments within the College of Education and Integrative Studies

Academic Programs Committee

Date: 02/01/2018

Executive Committee  
Received and Forwarded

Date: 02/28/2018

Academic Senate

Date: 03/07/2018  
**First Reading**

BACKGROUND: The Department of Education in the College of Education and Integrative Studies has put forward a referral to split off the Early Childhood Studies (ECS) Program from the Department of Education, forming a separate Early Childhood Studies Department. This is an amicable split, widely-supported among the faculty in the Department of Education (including both the ECS faculty and the other faculty) and within the College of Education. The rationale for this split is that ECS is the only baccalaureate program in the Department of Education, and is hence subject to a host of different accreditation, compliance, administrative, and advising issues than the other programs. Consequently, the ECS faculty operate with fundamentally different concerns and duties than the other Education faculty. A new department therefore makes sense, as the current department has to operate in a bifurcated mode.

RESOURCES CONSULTED:

Jeff Passe, Dean of CEIS

Hend Gilli-Elewy, Associate Dean of CEIS

Jann Pataray-Ching, PhD, Chair, Dept. of Education

Nancy Hurlbut, ECS Coordinator

Sepehr Eskandari, Interim AVP for Academic Planning and Faculty Affairs

Larisa Preiser-Houy, Interim AVP for Academic Programs

DISCUSSION:

Because the Education Department's classes are taken by very few students outside of their programs, this split will have minimal academic impact on students outside of the programs. We thus conducted consultation with two questions in mind: Will this split leave the resulting departments on a sustainable footing, and are they widely supported by the constituencies in the department? Responses from all relevant parties, including the Chair of Education and the current ECS coordinator, as well as the Dean and Associate Dean of CEIS, were positive. The only significant cost will be the addition of a new department chair to the roster in CEIS, but all parties indicated that this cost is sustainable. Consequently, since this split has very few effects outside the department and is broadly supported within the department, we see no significant downsides.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Academic Programs Committee recommends approval of the amicable split of Early Childhood Studies from the Department of Education. We further recommend that courses with the ECS prefixes be placed under the control of the new Early Childhood Studies Department, while the other prefixes remain under the control of Education.