

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

**ACADEMIC SENATE**

**ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

**REPORT TO**

**THE ACADEMIC SENATE**

**AP-002-201**

**New Self-Support Master of Science in Digital Supply Chain Management**

**Academic Programs Committee**

**Date: xx/xx/2020**

**Executive Committee  
Received and Forwarded**

**Date: 11/18/2020**

**Academic Senate**

**Date: 12/02/2020  
First Reading**

**BACKGROUND:**

The Department of Technology and Operations Management (TOM) in the College of Business Administration proposes a new self-support Master of Science in Digital Supply Chain Management. This program would consist of 32 semester units of coursework and, once a return to in-person instruction is feasible, would be offered primarily in an in-person/on-campus mode. The program is designed so as to be feasible with a cohort exceeding a dozen students. The department has already developed the expanded course outlines and sent them through the curriculum process. The courses would be taught primarily by TOM faculty, though some courses were developed with input from other departments, and some are listed as GBA (i.e. college-wide courses) that other faculty could also teach when appropriate. Some of the courses also overlap with an existing self-support MS program (Business Analytics).

Prior to the receipt of this program proposal by the Academic Programs Committee this program went through the curriculum process in the College of Business Administration and was supported by the Graduate Study Committee. This program was developed with substantial input from companies interested in hiring in this area, as documented in Appendix G of the program proposal and further expanded upon in a presentation to the AP Committee by Dr. Yuanjie He, Chair of the Technology and Operations Management Department.

**RESOURCES CONSULTED:**

Associate Deans

Budget Committee of the Academic Senate

Dr. Yuanjie He, Chair, Department of Technology and Operations Management

Dr. Erik Rolland, Dean, College of Business Administration, and Interim Dean of the College of the Extended University

Dr. Carlos Gonzalez, Chair, Department of Management and Human Resources  
College of Business Administration Graduate Study Committee

Dr. Kamran Abedini, Chair, Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering

Dr. Daisy Tang, Chair, Department of Computer Science

**DISCUSSION and RECOMMENDATION:**

Consultation on this program was largely positive. The Budget Committee had no concerns regarding the proposed budget. The AP Committee notes that this is among the more detailed budgets that we have seen in recent years for self-support MS programs. The budget is designed for a break-even point of 13 students in each cohort, but a similar program (Business Analytics) recently initiated by the TOM department has substantially exceeded its enrollment target. This demonstrated departmental achievement in recruiting students for self-support MS programs, combined with the partial overlap of courses, gives the AP Committee confidence that the program can meet its enrollment targets for sustainability. Industry input in the program design gives us further reason for optimism that the program will attract interest.

Feedback from the College of Business Administration (CBA) and College of the Extended University was also positive, both in the formal consultation and also from

CBA faculty serving on the Academic Programs Committee. The proposal includes a careful comparison with peer programs, indicating that the proposed course content is compatible with the standards of the field.

There was some concern raised by the Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering (IME) Department, regarding the nature of the courses and the requisite student backgrounds. Regarding course content, some IME faculty were concerned that the course titles did not necessarily convey a sense of graduate-level content, and also asked if the students would have the necessary quantitative training for some of these topics. However, the Chair of the TOM department explained that the first course is titled “Supply Chain Management Fundamentals” not because students will be novices, but because they may come from a variety of different business backgrounds and have different types of expertise. The “Fundamentals” course will address the variety of backgrounds so that all students are at the same level for subsequent work. Also, while students may not have the mathematical training to approach some of these topics in the way that an engineering researcher would, this program is aimed at business practitioners, and all students will still have to take a graduate-level statistics course for business students. Finally, there was a concern about whether this program would compete with programs offered by IME that may have partially overlapping topics. However, this program is aimed primarily at business professionals, not at people with engineering training. The AP Committee is confident that there will be no risk of department competing for the same pool of students.

Per CSU Executive Order 1099, an important issue in any self-support program proposal is supplanting, i.e. will this program divert time and resources away from state-supported programs? The proposed MS program will be taught by faculty working on overload in exchange for stipends at standard rates. This is an established practice on campus, and it ensures that faculty members 15 WTUs of state-supported work are not reallocated to self-support programs. The AP Committee thus concludes that supplanting issues have been addressed satisfactorily.

The Academic Programs Committee recommends approval of the new self-support Master of Science in Digital Supply Chain Management.