A draft of a new Policy and Procedure Section 200-26: Self-Supporting Degree Programs is provided for Davis Division of the Academic Senate review and comment. This new section was an outcome of the work performed by the Joint Senate/Administration Committee on Self-Supporting Degree Programs. The section should communicate the process for proposal, review and approval of a self-supporting degree program.
While seeing the value of SSDP programs, the School of Education FEC and Faculty have expressed concerns about the new proposed policy for these programs. The SOE faculty have had experience with Self Supporting Degree Programs most extensively through the Collaborative Credential Program launched and implemented in collaboration with the College of Education at Sacramento State University. This program was launched in the mid nineties and implemented through 2004. During negotiations with the Provost on the logistics of the program (lasting close to two years), the most substantive challenge was the development of the protocol used to insure that no mixing of state funds would occur. No students could take classes side by side with state funded students, This necessitated getting faculty from both institutions to implement the program course work during the summer on overload. This proposal does not address the issue of faculty load and how programs that depend on targeted faculty that are state funded might then be in competition with SSDP program instructional needs. Moreover, in the event that an income generation program incurs a debt of a substantial amount in the launching of a new program that ceases to be commercially viable, the unit would have to absorb that loss, potentially putting other core state funded programs at risk. Finally, SOEs FEC and Faculty expressed concerns on two grounds: (1) establishing clear protocols for insuring that consultation with state funded Academic Senate Faculty be substantive prior to considering such programs and (2) requiring that SSDP programs be subject to rigorous monitoring of income generated on a frequent basis so that programs that are not yielding the requisite income are discontinued expeditiously.
Consultation from Faculty Executive Committee, College of Letters and Science
PPM 200-26 Self-Supporting Degree Programs.
February 4, 2013

The Letters and Science Faculty Executive Committee has concerns about the funding sources of Self-Supporting Degree Programs (SSDP). While PPM 200-26 defines SSDPs as “receiv[ing] no state support and relying solely on revenue generated by the program itself for all operations of the program” (1), the question of faculty salaries complicates this definition. Current students enrolled in SSDPs are often taking classes side-by-side with regular students, taught by faculty paid on state funds in courses that are part of their regular teaching load. In addition, these courses are conducted on university property, in buildings that require maintenance, the payment of utility bills, etc. While SSDPs may be required to pay an overhead rate to cover the cost of instruction, these rates are notoriously approximate and inaccurate. In a nutshell, we are concerned about whether or not funding sources are truly separable.

The reason for our concern about the separation of funds is that we don’t want to establish SSDPs that have the effect of draining faculty time from the regular degree programs. If the creation of SSDPs ultimately means the addition of more students, it must also entail the addition of more faculty (either senate or non-senate). Even the addition of these students to regular classes would add to faculty workload.

Finally, we note that SSDPs will be required to generate surplus funds (1). We question how surplus funds are going to be defined. How will this relate to expenses and encumbrances going forward?
Section 3, D This section is a bit unclear and requires clarification. Is this a student support plan for self-supporting students.

Section 4, A, 2, (a) requires stronger wording that protects non-self supporting degree programs from being hollowed out by lack of faculty participation.
The CPB is in substantial agreement with the proposed UC Davis implementation of the UC policy on Self-Sustaining Degree Programs (SSDPs). One area of lack of clarity remains for the committee. Why should these self-sustaining programs be mandated to offer scholarship assistance? Is there an over-riding UC policy on this question that we must adhere to? If the argument for equity and diversity is based on being “public”, it seems like it shouldn’t necessarily pertain here (self-supporting = “privatized”). If it is based upon maintaining a pool of diversity in the professions, shouldn’t this be a public responsibility? Has this been thought through thoroughly or is it included because that’s how we do it with State-supported programs?

The CPB recognizes that many issues of budget and academic program with regard to the self-sustaining degree programs could fall into an area between the designated responsibilities of CPB and Graduate Council. We would urge Graduate Council to refer budgetary issues that arise during SSDP review directly to CPB and CPB to refer academic and student issues that arise during CPB review of SSDPs directly to Graduate Council.

Therefore, CPB recommends the following addition under Section C, Program Reviews:

2. To assess the ongoing financial viability of the SSDP and compliance with applicable policies, the Dean-Graduate Studies requests a campus audit or financial review of each SSDP to occur after the first three years, and on a regular schedule thereafter to coincide with the Graduate Council program review. This information will be provided to CPB for comment.
Research

February 26, 2013 8:57 AM

No response at this time.