Davis Division Academic Senate

Request for Consultation Responses

On Line Degree Certification Proposal (PPM 200-45)

November 3, 2011

The College of Letters and Sciences submitted a proposal in May 2011 seeking campus review of their proposal to make the college's on-line degree certification system available to the campus. The Davis Division notified the college that review would not commence until fall 2011. The college opted to proceed with discussions across campus and with potential development.

Administrative Partners (DANN TRASK)

November 3, 2011 11:29 AM

Dear Professor Bisson,

      The L&S Executive Committee has reviewed the proposal to extend the Online Degree Certification System developed by the College of Letters and Science to the other undergraduate colleges. The committee expressed strong support for the proposal. Committee members who had used the system described it as "great; streamlined; everything is there; easy-to-use; intuitive". It seems to be an excellent grass-roots simplification of an otherwise very tedious process. There were several suggestions of additional potential uses for the program, such as progress checks, etc.

      Sincerely,

      Abigail Thompson, Chair
      Executive Committee
      College of Letters and Science

Elections, Rules & Jurisdiction

October 24, 2011 11:49 AM

No response at this time.

Information Technology

October 25, 2011 10:24 AM

The Information Technology Committee has reviewed t   he On Line Degree Certification Proposal (PPM 200-45)and has completed the following response.

General Comments: This is an initiative of the College of Letters and Science, which also developed the Timesheet system. This system will convert a paper-based system into an online system. It promises to provide labor savings as well as facilitate timely contact of staff advisers with students. It includes double majors, but not minors although the latter could be added. It only addresses undergraduate students, although the same or similar system would be useful for graduate students. Developers foresee the need to have a link to a (currently hypothetical) course management system and Degree Navigator (or its replacement). It will only be used for administrative purposes, i.e., it will be used by staff advisers but not undergraduate students, although the latter capability could be easily added. This application is still in its early stages of development.

Recommendation: Overall, this application – as it currently stands – would be a significant help for staff advisers. We would urge the group to include programmers and users from outside the College of Letters and Sciences and users to broaden the appeal of the application. Serious consideration should be given to broaden access to undergraduate students and to approach Graduate Studies to develop a similar application for graduate student advising. A concern may be the timeliness of updates to graduation requirements as the unsettled budgetary situation forces departments to modify these requirements. Currently changes in course requirements are made only by programmers who write ad-hoc code. Moving forward, this project would greatly benefit from coordinating with the registrar's office and the majors in the development of a semi-automated hierarchical approval workflow for publishing changes to, and retrieving changes from, the course catalog. Without requiring a dependency on available programmer time to make the changes to write ad hoc codes, staff advisers should be able to directly update these requirements.

Planning & Budget

October 24, 2011 11:42 AM

CPB has reviewed the proposal from the College of Letters and Science for review of the Online Degree Certification process. CPB feels the web-based system used in the College of Letters and Science is a significant advance over the paper-based systems used previously. However, CPB feels there are some areas of concern that must be discussed.   Any such system must work uniformly over the campus across colleges.   It must be integrated with the registrar and department offices in order to avoid error and function smoothly.   It is important to avoid a 'patchwork' software approach that in the end cannot be upgraded, modified and ends up obsolete as the designers move away from the project.   Finally, courses taken elsewhere, such as community colleges or other UCs, that have equivalency with UCDavis courses should be able to be easily entered into the program.

Research

October 24, 2011 11:49 AM

No response at this time.

Undergraduate Council

November 3, 2011 4:52 PM

The Undergraduate Council (UGC) has reviewed the On Line Degree Certification
Proposal and enthusiastically supports its implementation as a tool to
increase efficiency and foster better record keeping of degree candidates.
Distribution of this system across campus is encouraged.