



Davis Division Academic Senate

Request for Consultation Responses

Proposal to Disestablish the Department of Applied Science

December 13, 2011

Proposal from the College of Engineering to disestablish the Department of Applied Science.

Academic Freedom & Responsibility

November 18, 2011 12:21 PM

UCD CAFR established review procedures for the 2011-2012 academic year on October 9, 2011. After CAFR review, the proposed disestablishment proposal, which included detailed information about accommodations for academic personnel, was found to not raise any concerns related to academic freedom.

Administrative Partners (DANN TRASK)

December 13, 2011 5:47 PM

Dear Professor Bisson,

The L&S Executive Committee has reviewed the proposal from the College of Engineering to disestablish the Department of Applied Science. While the Committee recognizes the necessity for the closure of the department, we would like to note that this action has not in fact gone as smoothly as the report portrays. At least one and possibly several Applied Science faculty members were acutely unhappy with the administration's reassignments to other departments.

While in this case the process is so far along as to make objections moot, given the current budget situation the problem may well arise again in the near future. With that in mind, the Executive Committee requests that great consideration be given to the preferences of ladder-rank faculty regarding reassignments of position when their departments vanish beneath their feet.

Sincerely,

Abigail Thompson, Chair
Executive Committee
College of Letters and Science

Elections, Rules & Jurisdiction

December 14, 2011 9:27 AM

No response at this time.

Graduate Council

December 2, 2011 10:56 AM

Graduate Council has been deeply involved in responding to the ripple effect caused by the disestablishment of the Department of Applied Science, which effectively occurred before this proposal to disestablish was even received. The graduate program was thrown into chaos and Council was forced to suspend admissions to the program mid-cycle, which resulted in the refund of application fees (for 51 applicants) and many hours of manual time by Graduate Studies staff to re-direct applications to other available graduate programs. Council and the Dean of Graduate Studies also had to appoint an interim chair to lead the graduate program, and is continuing to monitor the student guidance process.

Council has provided to the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) an update of the situation, and the proposed disestablishment of the department and discontinuation of the graduate program. In March 2011, we notified CCGA of possible changes in the Applied Science Engineering Graduate Program, a departmentally-based program, resulting from an announcement by the Dean of College of Engineering (COE) to disestablish the Department of Applied Science by June 2011. A consequence of this decision was uncertainty within the department and the Applied Science faculty as to the extent they could offer future graduate students a stable and comprehensive program of study. For this reason, Graduate Council suspended graduate admissions in March 2011. As soon as Graduate Council became aware of the intent to close the Applied Science department, we informed the faculty involved of their options to continue their graduate program as a graduate group. To date, they have not elected to do so.

The Davis Academic Senate asked the COE administration to explain the process for faculty consultation in this case. In the response, COE states that regarding the graduate program, they were unaware of the consultation process described in the UC Compendium for the discontinuance of a graduate program.

On October 6, COE provided notice of an anticipated discontinuance of the Applied Science Graduate Program. The description provided of similar graduate programs at UC Campuses and Other California Institutions has an omission. The Applied Science and Technology Graduate Group at UC Berkeley is not mentioned and should be. CCGA has been informed of anticipated discontinuance. In its memo to Graduate Council, CCGA responded that:

“The tenor of the discussion was that CCGA was very concerned about the failure of the College of Engineering to follow Compendium procedures. The claimed lack of awareness of the relevant Compendium procedures is not an adequate excuse. Of course, CCGA is in no way implying that the divisional Graduate Council or Academic Senate is in any way responsible for this failure. The committee is simply expressing its concern.” (*email: Goodhue to Knoesen, 11/7/11*)

While the closure of the Department of Applied Science is now a reality, Council is alarmed by COE's lack of adherence to the procedures of the University of California; these consultation procedures have been established to ensure that the impact on graduate education has been fully considered when a decision is made to close a department. In order to prevent similar future occurrences, Council has requested that the Davis Academic Senate review existing campus procedures to ensure adequate *and early* Academic Senate consultation in the disestablishment of units that support graduate education, or the discontinuation of graduate programs themselves.

Planning & Budget

December 14, 2011 9:26 AM

The procedure by which the Department of Applied Science was disestablished was not carried out in accordance with PPM 200-20 (see Section 220-20 Exhibit A flow chart). The first action is consultation with the Academic Senate:

"The affected academic unit(s) (department, section, division, or any unit below the level of college or school) shall review the proposal. The recommendation shall be reported as a separate vote of the Academic Senate members and Academic Federation members of the affected unit. "

Such a consultation was not carried out, there apparently was no such vote. Instead resources were removed by the Dean and the faculty (FTE) were removed to other departments.

At this point in time, CPB has been asked for consultation on what has already been done, the department has no FTE and does not exist except on paper. CPB notes that given the recent budget cuts and the new budget models that will appear in the near future, there will be more such reorganizations in academic units. Consultation with the Academic Senate early in the process will make these actions easier and yield better outcomes.

Research

December 14, 2011 9:27 AM

No response at this time.

Undergraduate Council

December 19, 2011 8:45 AM

The Undergraduate Council (UGC) has reviewed and discussed the proposal from the College of Engineering.

UGC supports the proposal to disestablish the Department of Applied Science and approves it with the understanding that any changes to current majors in the department will be addressed when separate requests are received.