



HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 13, 2009

To: Academic Senate Executive Committee

From: Integrated Curriculum Committee

Re: Suspension of the Liberal Studies/ Non-Teaching

The Program Prioritization process resulted in a number of programs being placed in Category I, Enhance, and Category IV, Restructure or Eliminate. On 23 March 2009 Interim Provost Snyder released his recommendations regarding the future of all of the programs in Category IV and some of those in Category I. These programs were requested by the temporary Academic Planning Committee (APC) to submit a Report responding to the prioritization categorization and the Provost's recommendations to the newly formed Integrated Curriculum Committee (ICC) by 14 September 2009.

This fall, the ICC assumed responsibility for completing the Post-prioritization process. The committee followed the process outlined by last year's ad hoc APC (links to pertinent documents can be found at the end of this memo). The ICC's Academic Master Planning Subcommittee (AMP) was assigned to complete an in-depth review of the program proposals and responses, and make a recommendation to the ICC for programs in Prioritization Category 4 using a university-wide perspective. To accomplish this, the AMP reviewed the recommendations of the prioritization task force, deans, and the provost; program responses to the prioritization report; program proposals requested by the APC and all pertinent documents submitted; and met with a program representative to discuss the proposals and recommendations. The AMP recommendation was then developed and referred to the ICC for discussion.

The AMP/ICC used the following principles/guidelines when formulating the recommendation provided below.

- Begin with the Prioritization Task Force recommendation as the starting point.
- Review Prioritization criteria: alignment with HSU mission and vision, program quality, cost effectiveness, and program demand
- Determine whether the program response provides a compelling case for overriding the recommendations of Prioritization Task Force, Deans, and Provost.
- Consider the ramifications for other programs of overriding Category 4 recommendations, given the original goal of prioritization to change the campus program mix, combined with the current budget crisis and the need to reduce Academic Affairs' base budget..

By memo to the ICC, dated September 14, 2009, Dr. Jená Burges summarized the various reviews conducted in the last couple of years regarding the status of the Liberal Studies/Non-Teaching major. In her memo, Dr. Burges agreed with the UCC that the lack of university structures to support interdisciplinary and other non-traditional programs greatly impacts their success. For the Liberal Studies/Non-Teaching major, the lack of structure has resulted in not having program-level student learning outcomes, oversight for the curriculum, assessment plans (or the ability to review such plans and provide curricular changes), or a writing implementation plan. These program attributes are generally provided and supported by the academic department. Dr. Burges concluded that the Liberal Studies/Non-Teaching major should have a departmental home in order for it to succeed.

At this point in time, no department has been willing to adopt the Liberal Studies/Non-Teaching major and the recommendation from Dr. Burges and others has been to suspend the program.

Upon review and consideration of Dr. Burges' memo, the ICC recommendations to the Senate that:

- 1) The major be suspended until such time that the university establishes appropriate structures to ensure program success.
- 2) New students should no longer be allowed to enroll in the major.
- 3) Existing students should continue to be advised by the Advising Center.

The following links provide background and other relevant information for these recommendations:

Post-prioritization process:

<http://www.humboldt.edu/~aavp/Prioritization/Resolution12-08-09-EPAttachmentPASSEDAppeared.pdf>

The Vice Provosts's and Provost's Recommendations can be found on the Prioritization web site: <http://www.humboldt.edu/~aavp/Prioritization.html>

The Liberal Studies Non-Teaching Program Report (PR-014) can be found on the ICC Sharepoint Site at <https://its-sharepoint.humboldt.edu/sites/dold/icc/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx>. To log in use your HSU login and password. The report is located in the General Resources folder in the Post Prioritization Reports folder.

Appendix: The relevant sections of the Prioritization and Provost's reports (cut and pasted from the documents referenced above):

Prioritization Report: Serious concerns from most evaluators regarding program quality.

Appears to serve as an "escape valve" for students who can't make it in other programs. Data indicates complete lack of faculty involvement.

Provost: This is an interdisciplinary program that is overseen by the Vice Provost and the University Curriculum Committee. The Task Force was concerned about the quality of the program and the lack of faculty involvement at the program level. The Vice Provost's and UCC's responses to the Task Force recommendation emphasize the need for the program to have a departmental home with advising and curricular oversight. Without that, the program should be eliminated. I ask the Vice Provost to work with the UCC to see if a home department can be found which will take responsibility for curriculum and advising. If a department cannot be found, I recommend that the program be eliminated and that the APC set up a committee to evaluate this recommendation.