Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
Monday, December 3, 2010  
2:00-4:00 pm  
2154 Meyer Hall


Not Present: J. Six, T. Scott, K. Tate, N. Van Alfen, Sarah Warren, and J. Williams

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Susan Handy at 2:33 pm.

1. Welcome and Introductions: Undergraduate representative, Bridgette Rivers, was introduced and welcomed.

2. Approval of minutes: The 11/19/10 meeting minutes were approved.

3. Announcements:

4. Reports:

Chair’s report: None

Vice Chair’s report:

Curricular issues: There was a meeting on 11/30/10 that included Diane Ullman, Jeffrey Williams, Ken Shackel (Undergraduate Majors and Courses Committee chair) and Handy to review the status of three undergraduate majors.

International Agricultural Development Major (IAD): Since the EC recently voted to close IAD to admissions, Plant Sciences has expressed interest in reviving the major although in a different way than originally proposed with respect to the International Relations overlap. (informational only; no action necessary at this time).

Sustainable Agricultural and Food Systems Major (SAFS): Approved by the EC and submitted to the AS a second time on 9/29/10. The review process continues. The Academic Senate’s Committee on Planning and Budget and its Undergraduate Council sent the dean a letter (dated 11/23/10) requesting clarification to nine bulleted areas of the proposal. Ullman will assist the dean with his response.

Textiles & Clothing Major (TXC): In light of the fact that the Textiles & Clothing Department (T&C) no longer has the faculty needed to sustain the major, the dean’s office has requested the EC to consider the college’s need to make a recommendation to close the major to admissions for Fall 2012, as well as the ultimate need to eventually close the major, in the absence of a viable solution to otherwise financially support it. Ideally these decisions are made by the faculty themselves, but so far that has not occurred. The EC can vote to make recommendations that would get the process started. The dean has committed the resources that are necessary to fulfill the college’s responsibilities to all existing students within the major.

T&C representatives will be attending today’s meeting to allow EC to hear their perspectives on the situation. In preparation for that discussion, EC briefly discussed the status of the movement of faculty currently in the T&C Department, the placement of the TXC major, its budgetary dilemma, transitional solutions, and what parts of the current curriculum could possibly be continued.

Associate Dean’s report: None

Standing committees report: None

Special committee: None
Dean’s Update (MacDonald):

**Departmental Chairs meeting:**

*Demographics White Paper:* On behalf of the dean, who was unable to attend, MacDonald reported that there was lengthy discussion about the white paper being prepared by the dean concerning the college’s demographic issue. The dean laid out his arguments for the need for recruitment, not just at the assistant level, but at the mid-rank levels as well. Once the white paper is prepared, it will be sent to the chairs for wide distribution within the college. It is imperative that the faculty understand the issues and the importance of approaching this strategically.

*Administrative clusters:* Discussion on this issue included obtaining perspectives from chairs about how the clusters are working out.

*Success of new faculty:* The dean is working toward the appointment of three committees: 1) to identify appropriate ways for the dean’s office to provide research support (pre-award/post-award) and how to interface that with processes emerging in the clusters to ensure that faculty can be as successful as possible in obtaining extramural awards, 2) to try to improve mentoring/development of junior faculty to help get them on track for success as early as possible, and 3) to develop a vision for undergraduate education, identifying adjustments within curricula that may be needed because the college will have fewer faculty over time. Drafts of charge letters have been developed and more consultation will occur before faculty committees are appointed to tackle these three important issues.

*Proposed merger of Human Development, Community Development and Landscape Architecture:* Although this merger has been strongly supported by a faculty vote, and strongly supported by EC, the Academic Senate’s review process generated many questions for the dean’s office. The dean has requested that Delany and Hopmans respond to the four page letter received from the Academic Senate’s Committee on Planning & Budget. The EC will receive a copy of the final response from the dean’s office.

*Response from ANR?* MacDonald reported that the dean’s office has received feedback on the endowment issue, and that the comments sent to the ANR Web site are still not posted.

5. **Old Business**

- **Official Response ~ Management of Animals White Paper:** The finalized response was submitted to the Academic Senate earlier today, and is posted on the EC’s SmartSite.

6. **New Business**

- **Academic Senate Item**
  
  - System wide Review on the Policy on Self-Supporting Part-Time Graduate Professional Degree Programs: Informational only; no action necessary

- **Plans for the Textiles & Clothing Major**

  Handy introduced You-Lo Hsieh, Chair, Department of Textiles & Clothing (T&C), and Susan Kaiser, T&C Professor, to the committee and provided a brief synopsis of the EC’s understanding of the current issues being brought before it, specifically that the T&C has lost a number of faculty and that the college feels that not enough faculty remain to continue to support the major. A number of options for continuing the major have been proposed, but no viable solution has been found. Key points of the discussion were as follows:
Background: The CPC process last year led to a decision to close the department, with four of the five faculty members slated to move to the Department of Biological & Agricultural Engineering (BAE) and one to the College of Letters and Science (L&S). The department has been supporting two majors: Textiles & Clothing (TXC) and Fiber & Polymer Science (FPS). There are between 80-100 enrolled students, with about half again more minors and about 25 graduate students per year, in both majors. T&C faculty hope to preserve both majors. Hsieh and Kaiser noted that the T&C faculty’s perspective on each of these changes — the department dissolving, the faculty affiliation, as well as the issue of preserving the TXC major — is viewed as a part of a whole rather than just a question of what to do with the TXC major.

Fiber & Polymer Science Major: The college’s plan is to blend the FPS major into a new Biomaterials Science major within BAE. BAE is open to this idea, but is waiting until the T&C faculty have been relocated to BAE so that the faculty can work together on developing the new major. Hopmans stressed that the BAE faculty is supportive of this plan. T&C faculty are also supportive of this plan, given the natural affinities between the programs, but are concerned about the delay in the discussion of the new major.

Textiles & Clothing Major: The college’s plan is to discontinue support for the TXC major. The dean’s point of view, as explained by Hopmans and MacDonald, is that continuing to invest in the TXC major will impede the development of the new Biomaterials Science major, which the college sees as a high priority. It is necessary to set priorities for new faculty recruitment, given scarce resources. The dean has suggested that the T&C faculty find another home for the TXC major outside of CA&ES, but has committed to providing the necessary resources to continue the major until all current students have completed the program. The dean does not want another class of students to enter the program, which would constitute another full year of commitment on the part of the college, and has asked the EC to consider closing to admissions.

Hsieh and Kaiser stressed that the T&C faculty do not want to close the TXC major, for a number of reasons. They feel that the major is of value to the State of California, given the importance of the textiles industry, particularly design and product development, to California’s economy and the lack of comparable programs in the UC and CSU systems. The major offers a unique interdisciplinary perspective, combining both physical and social sciences – their graduates know materials and they also understand consumers and culture. The T&C faculty believe that the program has contributed to the growth of the industry in the state. The closing of the major would negatively impact alumni who feel that the value of their degree would be diminished, even if the program is eliminated for reasons that have nothing to do with quality. Putham asked about job prospects for TXC graduates, and Hsieh and Kaiser responded that the demand for their graduates exceeds the supply, and the market is demanding the skills that their program provides, so that their graduates are consistently finding jobs. The EC wondered if the college would lose students who came to UCD specifically for this degree.

Hsieh and Kaiser explained that five to six options for preserving the major have been considered. The current version is for a cross-college major. L&S has shown some interest, particularly given Kaiser’s reallocation to L&S, but has limited resources for supporting the major (e.g., they will provide TAs and other necessary support for Kaiser’s courses). As a result, the cross-college option would require on-going support from CA&ES. T&C now proposes that the current major be streamlined from the five courses (needing five lecturers) to a program that would require support from CA&ES for only one lecturer position. This proposal involves several courses offered during summer sessions, funding for which comes from outside of the college. MacDonald stressed his concern about constructing a curriculum that is based on summer sessions, but Kaiser noted that students could graduate without taking
summer session courses. Another streamlining option, as explained by Kaiser, is to eliminate the marketing component of the major and enable students to instead do a minor in Managerial Economics as a replacement. The revised cross-college major could also include L&S courses in Design, Asian-American Studies, Women & Gender Studies, Theater, and other departments. Kaiser expressed hope that CA&ES would provide support for a consumer behavior class, targeted also to FST and V&E majors to ensure that the consumer side and not just production side of agriculture is addressed within the college. She noted that the cross-college option would preserve the interdisciplinary nature of the program, which combines physical and social sciences, and is thus a better option than moving the major entirely to L&S, particularly given the importance of materials to the question of sustainability.

Paw U noted that there is a strong move across the college and other colleges to increase interdisciplinary programs, yet the college is now questioning a program that has traditionally been interdisciplinary. We have many models for interdisciplinary programs, including graduate groups that span multiple colleges, and departments within CA&ES that unite disparate elements. BAE spans two colleges, and there are two interdisciplinary proposals being developed involving Oceanography and Food Systems Science. MacDonald noted that these programs are not yet in place and will involve many hurdles.

Kaiser stated that since there has already been an historical commitment from CA&ES, it seems as though some semblance of participation would make sense in the future. Paw U also noted that the college has supported the TXC major for a long time, yet is now saying that this is not an appropriate activity for CA&ES. MacDonald responded that because of the budget cuts, it has become necessary to narrow the college’s focus and eliminate some of its traditional activities. Paw U asked if it would be possible for the college to provide some support, to be able to claim some part of this historical program that has an international presence and is one of the things that makes the college famous? Putnam expressed concern over using a “starvation” strategy to end the program.

Next steps: Handy closed the discussion by indicating that today no action would be taken and that this topic would be added to the next meeting agenda for further discussion. Handy and Klonsky requested a copy of the streamlined cross-college proposal for the major; Kaiser indicated that she would provide this information. Handy clarified that the EC has been asked to consider suspending admissions to the major and voting to recommend that the major be closed. She added that the committee has not yet seen a formal proposal for a new or revised major or been asked to vote on one. Since the EC does not control resources, it is not able to help T&C create a viable proposal. Handy explained that the EC is being told that it should make a decision about the suspending of admissions by the end of January in order to meet the Registrar’s deadline for affecting admissions for Fall 2012.

- Academic Senate Items:
  - Systemwide Review: Policy on Self-Supporting Part-Time Graduate Professional Degree Programs.

Handy explained that this is about updating the policy on the self-supporting programs, which historically are supposed to be part-time professional programs, although that is not what they all are. EC wondered if there is anything in the college, or being proposed within the college, that would make it worthwhile for a more indepth review of this. Berger mentioned the Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) which is in Maternal and Early Childhood Nutrition. Stern was asked to check to see if anyone there wants us to review or comment on this.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm