

Arts & Sciences Chairs Meeting
Tuesday, November 17, 2020
9:00-10:30 am, via Zoom
Minutes

In attendance: Vandana Kohli, Phil Hampton, Chanda Cunningham-Spence, Stephanie Guerrero, Mary Adler, Liz King, Christina Smith, Frank Barajas, Sean Anderson, Kimmy Kee-Rose, Andrea Grove, Geoff Buhl, Erich Fleming, Dana Baker, Colleen Delaney, Jose Alamillo, Sonsoles de Lacalle, Michael Soltys, Blake Gillespie, Lynette Landry, Antonio Jiménez Jiménez, Greg Wood

Guest: Dr. Jennie Luna

I. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes were approved for November 10, 2020.

II. Information Items

Guest Presentation: Dr. Jennie Luna, Chair of the Senate Ethnic Studies Taskforce

See attached presentation materials provided by Dr. Luna, in her role as Chair of the Academic Senate Ethnic Studies Taskforce. Dr. Luna provided the Chairs' Council a comprehensive overview of the current legislature, its specific impact on CI, and the recommendations the committee has made in identifying current course offerings that meet the legislative standards, which must be implemented for first-time freshmen starting in Fall 2021. The legislation requires ethnic studies courses to be taught by ethnic studies faculty.

Following Dr. Luna's presentation, the conversation turned to questions and/or concerns about the impact of AB1460 on academic programs. The taskforce is currently proposing what they have identified as the most seamless transition for students, which would be to transition CI's current Multicultural Perspectives (MP) graduation requirement to an Ethnic Studies (ES) requirement. Dean Kohli asked which party will be responsible for determining which courses will satisfy the Ethnic Studies criteria, as well as who currently approves courses that are designated as meeting CI's current MP requirement. Chair Buhl indicated that the General Education Committee approves courses for the MP requirement, however, consistent oversight is lacking and could use improvement. Dr. Luna responded that the responsible party for Ethnic Studies course approval will depend upon decisions made at the Chancellor's level; however, the Taskforce plans to recommend that a permanent member of the Ethnic Studies faculty sit on the General Education Committee in order to have close oversight of courses designated to fulfill the ES requirement.

Chairs voiced concern over the compressed timeline (Fall 2021) of implementing these changes on top of the challenges already being faced at this time due to COVID. Smaller programs that offer lower division GE offerings to meet the MP requirement may face harsh reductions in FTES if those courses are ineligible as meeting the Ethnic Studies requirement. Currently, the Taskforce has identified only four ES courses in the Chicana/o Studies and Africana Studies programs which meet the ES requirements. Another Chair clarified that an alternative to dissolving MP courses would be to cross-list them with an Ethnic Studies department, with appropriate review and approval from a qualified ES scholar.

Chairs thanked Dr. Luna and members of the taskforce for their hard work and acknowledged that the current plan being proposed by the group is the most accommodating in comparison to the Chancellor's Office proposed rollout. However, regardless of how these changes are ultimately implemented, there will be a schoolwide impact academic programs. Chairs expressed concern about the Chancellor's Office proposed change in General Education which would reduce Area D from 9 to 6 units, as discussed at a previous Chairs' meeting this semester. Chairs also suggested that there needs to be more consistent oversight of General Education offerings, specifically those designated as MP and, moving forward, there should be ongoing oversight of MP and/or ES courses to ensure that there is no drift in course content from intended learning outcomes.

Chair Alamillo shared that he was meeting with the CSU Board of Trustees (later in the morning of 11/17/20) to push back against the Chancellor's Office proposal in order to advocate for more flexibility in the ability to offer lower and upper division ES courses, especially as CI remains a majority transfer campus. In closing out the presentation, Dr. Luna shared an upcoming brown bag lunch opportunity for faculty to meet with the Senate Ethnic Studies Taskforce and voice concerns/suggestions of how to best implement these changes at CI, which ultimately remain dependent upon final determinations at the Chancellor's level.

III. Discussion Items

Academic Affairs Budget Advisory Council (AABAC) Update

Dean Kohli shared with the Chairs that Provost Say has asked to be invited, along with Assistant Vice Provost for Academic Financial Services & Chief Academic Budget Officer Kirk England, to an upcoming meeting to discuss the AABAC. Chairs agreed that they would appreciate the opportunity to discuss the intended role of the committee further with upper administration.

III. Chairs' Items

Cross-Listed Courses

Chair Baker spoke to the importance of clarifying policy regarding cross-listed course offerings. She advocated for the implementation of a procedure/policy which would avoid the placement of cross-listed courses on other program's schedules without proper consent or communication with the cross-listed program area. Chair Baker shared that in her experience, courses have appeared on the Political Science schedule without prior communication, and this has, in some instances, become problematic resulting in decreased Political Sciences FTES.

Other Chairs agreed that there should be a mechanism in place for Chairs to review and approve any cross-listed courses that have been put forward on the schedule. The group spoke to the historical development of cross-listed courses, and emphasized the fact that when the institution was still growing it was easier for Chairs to maintain open communication about cross-listed course offerings that were also intended to be, and largely were, team taught. Chairs spoke to the fact that the intended spirit of interdisciplinarity and collaboration of offering cross-listed courses has begun to die down as the university has experienced more growth. AD Hampton noted that this issue with cross-listed courses extends beyond A&S, and is an issue across campus. Dean Kohli spoke to the need for distinguishing between cross-listed versus team-taught courses, and

stated that she thinks Chairs should re-examine any cross-listed offerings to reassess whether they still address the original intent for which they were designed.

Chairs voiced concern over the fact that there is not a convenient way to easily change cross-listed courses through Curriculog. Physics Coordinator Greg Wood shared portions of Academic Senate Policy 16-06, which addresses the offering and removal of cross-listed courses:

8. Program areas cross-listing the course must consult regarding scheduling, faculty assignment, faculty evaluation, course articulation, course modification, and course delivery method.

9. Removal of a course's cross-listing status may be done at the request of a chair of either program cross-listing the course.

Dean Kohli stated that as the Senate Policy requires Chair consultation before offering a cross-listed course, Chairs should maintain open communication about courses they have put forth on class schedules. If there are disagreements over whether a specific course should be offered, she is willing to facilitate conversations with Chairs as necessary to determine a solution.