



DESIGNATION CODE: 11-12 CR 2 revised
Submission Date: March 8, 2012

TO: Academic Senate
FROM: The Committee on Research
SUBJECT: Centers and Institutes: Policies and Procedures
PURPOSE: For Action by the Academic Senate

ACTION

REQUESTED: That the Academic Senate approve the proposed modifications to the attached "Centers and Institutes: Policies and Procedures" document

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Centers and Institutes are governed by [Chancellor's Office Executive Order 751](#). In response to this EO, CSU East Bay established a policy and procedures on Centers and Institutes, Policy Memo AA 04-02 09/20/04 (updated 08/27/07; updated 01/06/09).

The existing Senate "Centers and Institutes" policy was passed by the Senate and approved by President Qayoumi in 2009.

A modified version of the Senate's "Centers and Institutes" document was placed on the Academic Affairs website in March 2011, which was in conflict with the existing Senate "Centers and Institutes" policy.

The Committee on Research was charged with resolving this ambiguity between the existing Senate and Academic Affairs policies.

Three substantive changes are proposed to the "Centers and Institutes" policy:

- (1) The term "Organized Research Unit" or "ORU" has been removed from the document, as this term was not normally employed by other CSUs or by the CSU system, and replaced throughout the document by "center or institute" or simply "center."
- (2) The approval process for Centers and Institutes (Section D) has been modified to replace review and approval by the Academic Senate with review by the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate and submission to the Academic Senate as an information item. Allowing the Executive Committee to review Centers and Institutes rather than the full Senate was viewed as a reasonable compromise between the desire of both administration and faculty members involved in developing and proposing centers for an efficient center approval process and the

need for due consideration through the shared governance process. The committee reviewed approval processes for centers and institutes from other CSU campuses ([see attached summary](#)) and determined that the proposed policy is comparable to other CSUs and satisfies the requirements of EO 751 for appropriate faculty consultation.

(3) A statement describing the center's commitment to diversity is now required in Section C, and Section G now includes as a responsibility of the center director to ensure "that the center is adhering to its commitment to diversity." This was deemed necessary to adhere to the University's Diversity Plan.

The Committee members deliberated on the constitutional issue of whether this is an allowable change to Senate policies for approval. It is the view of the committee that the process for development of Centers and Institutes is one of review and recommendation, rather than approval and therefore it is within the purview of the Senate to change that review process as it sees fit. Timely feedback for center proposals is deemed to be of utmost importance and while due deliberation is also a necessary aspect of the review process, the committee determined that review by the Committee on Research and the Executive Committee is sufficient.