

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST BAY

DESIGNATION CODE: 2011-12 CAPR 19

Date Submitted: May 15, 2012

TO: The Academic Senate

FROM: Committee on Academic Planning & Review (CAPR)

SUBJECT: Request for approval of a new Certificate in Pre-Professional Health Sciences

ACTION
REQUESTED: Acceptance of the proposal for a new Certificate in Pre-Professional Health Sciences

BACKGROUND:

At its meeting of 5/03/12, CAPR received a request from the Health Sciences Program Director, Dr. Oscar Wambuguh, for its support in recommending the approval of a new Certificate in Pre-Professional Health Sciences. This certificate would offer two tracks; a 91-unit Career Changer track for applicants without a science background and a 43-unit (minimum) Academic Enhancer track for those with a science background. It would be taught completely through self-support i.e. this certificate would not be available to state-side students although the courses offered would all be from the regular university catalog but offered through DCIE using a mix of regular faculty and DCIE-contracted lecturers.

The rationale for developing the certificate is the 2009 discontinuance by the CSU Chancellor's Office of the ability of campuses to enroll unclassified post-baccalaureate students. As stated in the request submitted to APGS on 3/1/2012, "a formal classified post-baccalaureate program is being proposed to admit the increasing number of post-bac students who need additional preparation for biomedical programs in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, optometry and veterinary sciences. Accepted students will enroll in one of two tracks: 1) a 2-year career changer track for those with degrees other than in science; 2) a 1-year academic enhancer track for those with a degree in a science field. After completing this program, post-bac students will be better prepared academically and, therefore, more competitive in their candidacy for biomedical schools."

The request to APGS indicates that this certificate is taking the place of an existing, informal post-bac program that has been meeting the demand of students seeking careers in the health sciences but which is now no-longer possible given the enrollment restrictions for such students. It also indicates that because this program is self-supported and administered by DCIE, there will be no impact on other programs in the College of Science. The request states that "The program is, therefore, self-sufficient and all faculty, staff, office space and equipment needs are supported from student fees. The University is compensated for its regular services such as library usage."

CAPR voted to recommend approval of this request with a breakdown of 7 Yes, 1 No, and 2 Abstentions. While in support of efforts to prepare students to enter the medical and related fields, several of the members who voted yes expressed some concern over the size and the scale of this proposed mega-certificate and requested that the CAPR Chair include the various concerns expressed with respect to this program and other such programs in the background materials provided to Excom. Though they agree with the need for appropriately educated workers to enter the health profession and post-graduate programs in the professional fields, there is some concern over the effect of the design and

implementation of programs such as this on state-side students. In part, this concern was manifest because of the realization that this is but one of several such programs that have appeared on CAPR's agenda, not least on 05/03/2012, with the size of the proposed certificate galvanizing discussion of the broader set of issues referred to below.

This certificate is of a size and scale not previously witnessed by this committee and comes on the back of a trend over the last couple of years to offer a growing portion of the catalog through DCIE. It was stated by Dr. Wambuguh that there are already almost 300 students pursuing these two tracks informally. It was noted by CAPR that although the courses required for the proposed certificate tracks are the same courses taken by state-side students and may be taught by regular tenure-track or regular part-time faculty instead of or in addition to (through overload) their state-side teaching of those same courses, they would not actually be available to state-side students. In light of this observation and the discussions held during the 05/03/2012 meeting and in written submissions to the CAPR Chair, the following additional questions and concerns were articulated that capture the range of issues expressed by committee members:

- The curriculum appears to be one of the most extensive certificate programs CAPR has ever been asked to approve - the Career Changer track is 91 units - two courses (8 units) less than the requirements for the state-side B.S. Biology major. The Academic Enhancer track is 43 units ("at minimum") - 2 units short of the Biology Master's degree. Thus, in effect, they are equivalent to an entire degree program without the GE component; CAPR members wondered if they are not, therefore, a de-facto second degree or graduate degree without the graduate level classes as much as they are a certificate?
- As this program continues to grow, as Dr. Wambuguh suggests it will, given the potential demand, CAPR is concerned that the lab space issues that are already a problem on campus will continue to worsen. There have been on-going space issues in Science especially during lab practical exam weeks when extra space is needed to administer labs. It was noted that 300 students are already pursuing courses related to the proposed program.
- There were concerns about how funds generated through DCIE are and will be allocated to the departments providing the classes; in particular, questions arose about whether they go toward replenishing/replacing used/broken supplies and compensating staff for extra time setting up labs that are not in their current job duties. CAPR members expressed the general concern that there be transparency in how the funds that come back to colleges and/or departments through DCIE-offered courses are used so that faculty can see that these courses are not being subsidized by state resources (e.g. lab supplies, staff time, etc.)
- While senior and junior faculty members in affected departments, e.g. Biological Sciences, will undoubtedly welcome the opportunity to teach the additional certificate-related courses because of the extra income it provides, how will this affect the overall willingness of Science faculty to provide campus service (this is not just a worry with respect to the proposed Health Sciences certificate but has been raised with respect to other catalog offerings through self-support where overload occurs and thus competes with faculty members' time for advising, committee work and so forth). CAPR feels that it is important that deans and chairs ensure that any tenure-track faculty who teach in this or any self-support programs are fulfilling all their university obligations, including effective teaching, scholarly activity and university service.
- Although CAPR and CIC are being asked to approve programs such as this certificate in Pre-Professional Health Sciences, does the academic senate and faculty subsequently have any accountability over these programs? Since they are offered through DCIE, it is unclear to CAPR if they are subject to the same review procedures as state-side programs or will be subject to similar assessment requirements with respect to the learning outcomes that the department and university seek with respect to state-side course offerings and for graduates of our state-side programs.
- CAPR has heard that many state-side students already cannot get the required courses (especially the biology upper division courses) they need to graduate in a timely way because of the lack of faculty, course budgeting, etc. to offer these courses. Several committee members observed that it is an on-going source of frustration for students to see all the courses they need to graduate

offered regularly and frequently through DCIE. While this is not an issue that is caused by Health Sciences and the proposed certificate, it is nevertheless a source of confusion because many students don't know what "self-support" means and will include these courses in their planning when they appear on the schedule and when plotting out their classes, only to find that they can't enroll in them. Deans and chairs must ensure that self-support offerings of classes to support such programs as the proposed certificate do not supplant state-side courses but are in addition to those meeting the needs of our state-side students.

While the concerns outlined above were expressed with specific reference to the proposed Health Sciences certificate, many of them are also relevant to all of the self-support programs that are now coming through CAPR --- there were three such proposals at this 05/03/2012 CAPR meeting alone. Therefore, CAPR also expressed the desire for these larger issues and concerns about self-support programs to be addressed by some body on campus (e.g. the Academic Senate) and specific policies and guidelines for self-support programs to be developed if deemed warranted.