

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST BAY**

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**TO:** The Academic Senate Executive Committee

**FROM:** The Committee on Academic Planning and Review (CAPR)

**SUBJECT:** Approval of a new Certificate in Recreation Therapy in the Department of Hospitality, Recreation and Tourism

**PURPOSE:** For Action by the Academic Senate

**ACTION REQUESTED:** CAPR recommends that the Academic Senate approve the new Certificate in Recreation Therapy in the Department of Hospitality, Recreation and Tourism

**BACKGROUND:**

At its meeting of May 17, 2012, Prof. Nancy White of the Department of Hospitality, Recreation and Tourism (HRT) presented her department's request to CAPR for their approval of a new Certificate in Recreation Therapy to be offered online through self-support via the Division of Continuing and International Education (DCIE).

The proposed certificate is aimed at working recreation therapy professionals who already hold a degree in Recreation or a related major that permitted them to work in the field but who lack the specific courses required for certification as a Recreation Therapist by the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification. California is moving toward licensure and this certificate will help prepare those who are working in the field, but don't have NCTRC, to prepare to obtain the license. Stateside students pursuing a career in recreation therapy through the HRT degree program track at Cal State East Bay will acquire the coursework needed for NCTRC and thus will not need to obtain this proposed HRT certificate.

Note that in order to offer the Recreation Therapy certificate, two new courses were created and two existing courses were modified (REC 4601, 4602, 4604 and 4605) in order to align with NCTRC requirements. The department has considerable experience in offering online classes and in supervising internships via online and remote advising and has a cadre of tenure-track (through overload) and lecturers willing to teach the additional course sections online associated with this self-support certificate.

As has been pointed out with respect to the other new programs presented to CAPR for their approval in May 2012, although in unanimous support of this proposal, members would like to reiterate their concerns over the implications of self-support program usage of courses in the university catalog, tenure-track faculty and state-side supported facilities to the broader institution and our student population.

In particular, the following discussion points have been raised in meetings by CAPR members should be noted by Excom and the Academic Senate:

- Many state-side students already cannot get the required courses they need to graduate in a timely way because of the lack of faculty, course budgeting, etc. to offer these courses. Frequently, 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 programs using courses from the university catalog do not supplant state-side courses but are in addition to those meeting the needs of our state-side students. Note that Prof. White indicated that HRT will seek ways to reflect that the courses aimed at the certificate population and not available to state-side students in the schedule listing and that students will be apprised of which courses they can and can't enroll through advising in to avoid this confusion.
- Although CAPR and CIC are being asked to approve programs such as this certificate in Recreation Therapy, do the Academic Senate and faculty subsequently have any accountability over these programs? If 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.
- CAPR had concerns about how funds generated through DCIE are and will be allocated to the departments providing the classes. CAPR members expressed the concern that there be transparency in how the funds that come back to the colleges and/or departments are used so that faculty can see that these courses are not being subsidized by state resources.
- While senior and junior faculty members in affected departments will undoubtedly welcome the opportunity to teach the additional certificate-related courses because of the extra income it provides, CAPR is concerned as to how this will affect the overall willingness of faculty to provide campus service. 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.

In conclusion, CAPR believes these larger issues and concerns about self-support programs should 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.