DATE: May 26, 2012
TO: The Academic Senate
FROM: The Committee on Instruction and Curriculum
SUBJECT: 11-12 CIC 22: Proposed Certificate in Pre-Professional Health Sciences
PURPOSE: Action by the Senate
ACTION REQUESTED: That the Academic Senate approve a Certificate in Pre-Professional Health Sciences (PHAP)

Background: On May 21, 2012 the CIC considered a proposal to approve a post-bacc program that has been self-supported via DCIE for nearly two years called the Pre-Professional Health Academic Program. The intent of the program is to offer science courses that are considered pre-requisites for biomedical professional schools (medical, dental, optometry, pharmacy, veterinary). The target audience are students with a degree outside of science that are considering a change in career, and those with a science degree who desire additional course work to make them more competitive. The curriculum consists of catalog courses in the College of Science (primarily biology courses, but also from chemistry, physics, math, and statistics). PHAP faculty are a mix of regular faculty (hired by DCIE for up to 25% overload), and lecturers (hired by DCIE). Faculty are all hired on recommendation from the PHAP coordinator (Dr. Oscar Wambuguh) in consultation with appropriate College of Science chairs. These sections are taught and funded separately from the state-supported sections, but use the same classrooms, staff, and lab equipment. Degree program students can not enroll in PHAP courses and PHAP courses are listed separately in the online schedule.

The CIC inquired about the quality of the lecturers and Dr. Wambuguh stated that many are already hired as lecturers and teaching state-side courses in the various departments, while the new ones are primarily post-doctoral researchers at the University of California (San Francisco and Berkeley campuses). The Department Chairs and Dr. Wambuguh’s appraisals of lecturer CVs and student evaluations have been largely positive with very minor exceptions. Few students have completed the certification because the program started recently, but most of those who did, and applied to biomedical programs last year, have been accepted to biomedical programs (8 out of 13 applicants admitted; 5 re-applying this year). The program has about 270 students currently enrolled in classes this spring quarter 2012, and is expected to award many certificates in the next year as enrollment grows.

The CIC voted in favor of approval (7/0/0).