

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, HAYWARD

DESIGNATION CODE: 01-02 CAPR 7

DATE SUBMITTED: May 17, 2002

TO: The Academic Senate

FROM: The Committee on Academic Planning and Resources

SUBJECT: Five-Year Program Review of the Department of Economics

**ACTION**

**REQUESTED:** Approval of the Program Review of the Department of Economics and continuation without modification.

Overview Description of the Program

The Department of Economics, residing in the School of Business and Economics, offers an undergraduate BA degree; a graduate MA degree, with options in both degrees in Business Administration; and a minor in Economics. Beginning in Fall Quarter 2001, the Department added two new options for the BA degree in Economics - the option in Social Science Economics and the option in Statistical Economics.

Overview of the documents submitted to CAPR

On Thursday April 18, 2002, Nan Maxwell, Chair of Economics, met with CAPR to discuss the Department of Economics Five-Year Program Review. H.E. Frech III, from the University of California, Santa Barbara and Michael J. Potepan, from California State University, San Francisco, visited and reviewed the department on February 7 and 8, 2001. The Department of Economics submitted the following documents to CAPR as part of their 1996-2001 Program Review: (1) Departmental Response to the Outside Reviewers' Report, (2) Outside Reviewers' Report, (3) Self-Study and Planning Document, and (4) Appendices of Departmental Information, which included Annual Course Offerings, Outcome Assessment Document, and University Provided Statistics.

Five-Year Program Review/Self-Study (2001-2005)

Summary of specific areas of the Self-Study

The Department began its efforts related to Outcome Assessment last year. As a first step, a survey was developed and administered to current undergraduate and graduate students. The sample sizes were low, which may have confounded the interpretation of the results. The results of the surveys will be used to begin development of assessment tools.

Summary of supporting data

The MS program has shown a steady increase in the last 5 years. The undergraduate program has remained about the same over the last 5 years. The total undergraduate FTES has declined (347.5 to 274.3) because enrollment in the undergraduate Business Administration major declined and because that major dropped one Economics course.

## Outside Reviewer's Comments

The reviewers, H.E. Frech III and Michael J. Potepan, completed an outside review of the Department of Economics on February 7 and 8, 2001. Their report included many general comments about the department's faculty, students, curriculum, external activities, and many recommendations.

The reviewers commented on how productive the faculty are in their research and how well they get along with one another. They also commented on the unusual structure of having co-chairs, Nan Maxwell and Chuck Baird, but noted that they work well together and the faculty would like to see them continue as co-chairs.

The faculty are not as focused on the special needs of non-traditional commuter students. They suggested creating tutoring services for Economics students and a peer-advising program.

The reviewers were impressed with the curriculum offered by the Department of Economics and the teaching of the faculty. They were also impressed with the Wednesday Economics Seminar offered by Professor Shmanske, which is required of all economics majors over several quarters.

It was noted that most of the faculty are involved in external activities, working on research grants and teaching off-site. The reviewers were concerned with the amount of time the faculty spend teaching in the off-site MBA program.

The reviewers also suggested that since the faculty are dispersed over many different locations that this has led to a lack of presence in the School of Business and Economics by the Department of Economics. They suggest consolidation of the faculty, the creation of a department lounge, and that the Department Office and Secretary be re-established as a way of drawing more students to the Department.

## The Department's Response

The faculty thought highly of the reviewers' report and they concur with their suggestions. The Department has made a request to re-establish the Department Office and Secretary.

Most faculty members typically teach on campus each quarter (some are on assigned time for various reasons and, hence, do not necessarily teach each quarter). In some cases, a faculty member will teach in a foreign program and in these cases care is taken so that classes are covered by other faculty members or lecturers. The reviewers' comment that "some faculty members have not actually taught at Hayward for some time" is incorrect and the department suspects that the reviewers had a misunderstanding of the facts.

In compliance with CSU policy, the Department stated that because the major only requires students to take 72-73 units, the reduction in the total number of units required for graduation from 186 to 180 will be accompanied by a loss in elective courses for Economics undergraduates.

## Program's Five-Year Strategic Plan (2001-2005)

The department has developed a plan for the next five years. The plan includes: 1) additions to the curriculum, adding an option in Accounting for the BA major and streamlining the elective coursework; 2) implementing publicity plans to attract more new students; 3) developing the department website; and 4) hiring a Department Secretary to serve as the person students can go to for information regarding the Economics major.

## CAPR Analysis of the Program's Five-Year Review

### a. Program

The program has made many improvements to the curriculum and has further plans to add options that will hopefully attract more students to the major in the future.

### b. Resources

The department has a need to re-establish its Department office and to hire a department staff person to help with the cohesiveness of the department. This will help facilitate communication between students and the department. The Economics Department seems to be lost in the School of Business <sup>and Economics</sup> with little formal presence or recognition under the huge Business ~~Department~~ that seems to dominate the resources of the school.

*Degree Program*

## CAPR Recommendation For Continuation of The Program

CAPR recommends approval of the Five-Year Review of the Department of Economics and continuation of the program without modification.

## Date of The Program's Next Five-Year Review

The Department of Economics is scheduled to conduct its next Five-Year Program Review in 2005-2006.