

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST BAY

Designation Code: **2009-10 CAPR 12**

Date Submitted: April 2, 2010

TO: The Academic Senate
FROM: Committee on Academic Planning & Review (CAPR)
SUBJECT: Request for temporary suspension of the MA Program in Sociology
PURPOSE: For Action by the Academic Senate

ACTION

REQUESTED: That the Academic Senate approve the request of the Sociology program to temporarily suspend its MA program.

BACKGROUND

INFORMATION: At its meeting on April 1, 2010, CAPR discussed the request for temporary suspension of the MA Program in Sociology and it was unanimously approved, with the changes of a couple of typos and the CAPR suggestion of adding that students can transfer graduate courses from other universities as a way to meet the theory and methods requirements.. Sociology is asking to suspend the MA program for 2 years because of the budget situation and the loss of department lecturers. Courses needed by the current cohort of students would still be offered. The revised department submission is provided below.

From: Sociology & Social Service Department

Date: March 17, 2010

Members of the faculty in the Sociology and Social Service Department request that admission to the MA Program in Sociology be suspended for a two year period. Each point outlined in CAPR's Temporary Suspension Policy is addressed below.

1. Explanation for the request for temporary suspension of the program.

The recent budget crisis makes it impossible to adequately staff the graduate program. We have a large number of undergraduate majors and the budget cuts require that regular faculty cover undergraduate courses typically staffed by lecturers. Raising enrollment caps has further increased faculty workload making it difficult to serve on capstone committees. Below is an overview of our department and changes in staffing generated by the last two budget crises.

(NOTE: Fall 2009 is the most current data provided by the Office of Planning and Institutional Research (OPIR). Where possible we fill in with more current data.)

Current Enrollment:

As of fall 2009, we had 375 undergraduate majors and 26 graduate students enrolled in our program. The number of graduate students reported is an undercount since OPIR figures reflect only those students enrolled in courses in fall 2009. Our records indicate that we have 35 active

graduate students with approximately half of those 35 students at or close to the capstone stage. Over the past three years, approximately 17 students completed their degree.

Faculty:

In 2000 we had 14 regular faculty members. By 2005 we had eight regular faculty members. By 2008 this figure decreased to six regular faculty members and has remained at six since that time. Of the six remaining faculty, two hold degrees in Social Work and staff the Social Service Option of the undergraduate program. While these two faculty members can serve on graduate committees, the graduate students tend to select Sociology faculty as capstone committee members since the MA degree is in Sociology.

In 2006, Sociology had 11 lecturers. This figure decreased to eight in 2009 and further decreased to four as of March 1, 2010. These four entitled lecturers typically teach three courses each quarter plus summer courses. Three of these four lecturers have been assigned only one course for spring 2010. This reduction is reflected in the percentage of courses taught by lecturers. For example, in fall 2008, 20 (54%) of the 37 courses listed were taught by lecturers. As of March 1, 2010, six (27%) of the 22 classes listed for spring 10 are being taught by lecturers.

2. Reason why we are requesting suspension instead of discontinuance.

We have a strong long-term commitment to the graduate program as we have with our undergraduate program. But to save the nationally known quality and integrity of our program we must suspend it due the university's budget crisis. We request suspension rather than discontinuance because of advising and enrollment pressures on us resulting from the university budget crisis. Our search for a new faculty member was suspended; we have lost our lecturers and half of our regular courses. Our student advising load has doubled because of student anxieties and the disruption to course offerings. Our class sizes have increased beyond our ability to provide intensive instruction to needy students. We need time to settle our undergraduate majors and to see if the post-budget cut environment will support a quality undergraduate or graduate program.

A favorable change in the current budget such as increased funding for instruction is necessary if we are to be able to staff our program. We do not want to take the more drastic measure of discontinuing our program in a time when the full impact of budget cuts on departments and programs has yet to be determined.

2. The quarter and date when the proposed suspension will take effect, and the quarter and date when it is anticipated that it will come to an end.

Technically, the suspension will take effect in fall 2010 (we typically admit students in fall and winter, but no students were admitted in winter 2010). However, we request that Graduate Programs and Academic Studies stop accepting applications immediately.

We anticipate that the program will be reinstated in fall 2013. This means that we will begin accepting applications in winter and spring 2013 for the fall term.

3. A complete list of courses that will not be taught if the program is suspended, and a statement summarizing the effect of suspending these courses on other areas of the university including the Library, GE, Liberal Studies, and interdisciplinary programs which rely on these courses for core or option requirements, with evidence that key personnel from those program or areas have been consulted with respect to these effects.

Courses that will not be taught in 2010/11 & 2011/12:

Soc 6111 (Advanced Sociological Research Methods I)
Soc 6112 (Advanced Sociological Research Methods II)
Soc 6311 (Seminar in Sociological Theory I)
Soc 6312 (Seminar in Sociological Theory II)

Impact on other areas and programs:

With the exception of Statistics, no other area or program will be impacted by the suspension of course offerings.

Notification to the statistics program:

About 15 graduate students enroll in Stat 3010 (Statistical Methods in the Social Sciences) each year (usually in fall) since this is a prerequisite for Soc 6111. The Chair of the Statistics Department Chair has been notified of our plan to suspend our program. His response is attached as Appendix A.

4. Student enrollment and application patterns for the program during the previous five years.

Approximately 20-25 students apply to the program each year (most students apply in fall), and approximately 15-18 students are admitted. This pattern has held for the past five years.

5. Likely effects of the temporary suspension on students currently enrolled in the program and a list of courses that would need to be taught during the suspension period or other mechanisms such as substitutions and independent studies that would be allowed those students to graduate in a timely manner.

Students who are currently enrolled in the graduate program will be able to complete the program. The following courses would still be taught.

Soc 6800 (Topic Seminar) One or more topic seminars will be taught during the suspension so that current students can complete this requirement. (Students are required to take three topic seminars, and the most recent student cohort has completed one seminar.)

Soc 6900 (Independent Study) & Soc 6999 (Issues in Sociology)

These courses can substitute for one or more topic seminars. Individual students enroll in each of these courses with a faculty member who agrees to supervise the course as an overload without compensation. This continues a current practice in our program. We will continue offering both of these courses during the two year suspension.

Substitution:

Currently, students are allowed to substitute graduate courses from other graduate programs to meet the requirement of 12 units of Soc 6800. We will continue this practice as a way to help students meet this requirement.

Soc 6908 (Thesis Development)

This course is used to complete a thesis proposal. We will need to continue offering this course as an uncompensated overload until current students have finished their proposals (students register with the chair of their committee). We anticipate that we will need to offer this course over the two year period that the program is suspended.

Soc 6909 (Departmental Thesis)

As with Soc 6908, students enroll in this course with their committee chair. We will continue offering this as an uncompensated overload during the two year suspension period.

Soc 6910 (University Thesis)

The same condition that applies to Soc 6908 & Soc 6909 apply to Soc 6910.

Theory & Methods:

Most students complete theory and methods during the first year of their program. The most recent cohort of graduate students are currently enrolled in Soc 6111 (Advanced Research I) & 6311 (Theory I). This cohort will complete the second course in methods (6112) & theory (6312) by spring 2010. Our records indicate that all students should have finished these courses this year. However, in the case that we have overlooked a student who still needs these core courses, we will substitute undergraduate theory & methods (with additional requirements in course assignments for graduate students). Also, students may utilize concurrent enrollment or transfer courses that they have taken at another university as a way to fulfill the graduate theory and graduate methods requirement. However, students must obtain the approval of the graduate coordinator and courses taken at another university must be graduate level courses. Students will still be required to have the required number of resident units to graduate. Offering the above courses, substitutions and alternatives will allow current students to complete the program.

6. The number and type (tenured, tenure-track, and lecturer) of faculty currently teaching in the program and the way(s) in which the temporary suspension will affect them.

We anticipate that the temporary suspension will relieve tenure and tenure-track faculty from teaching some of the graduate courses in 2010/11 & 2012/12. Budget cuts mean that regular faculty will be required to cover courses typically taught by lecturers who are not being retained for spring 2010. The status of lectures for fall 2010/11 is yet to be determined.

Benjamin Bowser and Carl Stempel, both tenured professors, are currently teaching theory and methods in winter 2010 and spring 2010. All regular faculty are eligible to teach graduate courses. The typical pattern is that each year Carl Stempel teaches the theory course each year and Benjamin Bowser teaches the methods course. Patricia Jennings and Carl Stempel, both tenured professors, have taught one or more topic seminars over the past three years. Holly Vugia, a tenure-track professor with a Social Work background, taught the topic seminar this past fall. Diane Beeson has taught the topic seminar in recent years, but she will finish the FERP program in spring 2010 and will not return in the fall.

7. The number and type of university staff employed in the program and the way(s) in which the temporary suspension will affect them.

Suspending the program will not have any negative impact on staff since we do not have a staff person whose primary duties involve management of the program. Paperwork for the program is processed and maintained by the Graduate Coordinator, Patricia Jennings, and the department's Administrative Assistant, Sylvia Musson.

9. The means by which affected faculty, students, and staff were informed of the proposed temporary suspension and a summary of the feedback received on the proposed temporary suspension from the affected faculty, students, and staff, including copies of all written responses. Where the proposal has been developed by the college dean, the faculty and program Chair or Director must be consulted and their views on the proposed suspension recorded in the proposal in the form of a formal vote of support or rebuttal. Faculty, or the program Chair or Director in the case of a program with no faculty, must be given 30 academic days to review a copy of the suspension proposal to be submitted for consideration by a college dean and to provide the dean with the results of their vote and any supporting documentation for inclusion in the proposal when it is sent to the Committee on Academic Planning and Review (CAPR) of the Academic Senate at the end of this period. If no voting outcome and supporting documentation is forthcoming within the 30 academic day period (not including the summer quarter), the proposal can be sent by the college dean to CAPR as is. An academic day is thus defined as any calendar day between and including the first and last day of classes of the fall, winter and spring quarters. Where the proposal comes from the majority of the faculty or from the program Chair or Director of a program with no faculty, it can be sent directly to CAPR without this 30 academic day review period.

Faculty:

The decision to suspend the graduate program was discussed at two separate faculty meetings. In the first meeting we raised the issue and decided to take time to think it through and then meet again to vote on the matter.

The second meeting took place on March 1, 2010.

A vote to suspend the program was taken at the March 1st meeting and the results are as follows:

All regular faculty members unanimously agreed to suspend the program for a two year period.

Students:

After the March 1st vote, students currently enrolled in courses were notified by faculty teaching Soc 6111 & Soc 6311. The Graduate Coordinator sent an e-mail informing current students of the suspension (see Appendix B) and asking for student feedback (see Appendix B). A former student who is now in the PhD Program at Ohio State sent a letter expressing his regret at the loss of the program. He believes he would not have entered into a doctoral program without first earning his MA degree in our program (see Appendix C).

Staff:

Sylvia Musson, the Administrative Assistant, was notified on March 2, 2010 and feedback was sought via e-mail (see Appendix D).

10. A summary of what the most recent CSUEB Academic Program Review, CSUEB Memorandum of Understanding, and any accreditation review say about the program, including any parts of these reviews that have relevance to the proposed suspension.

It was noted in our five-year plan that we had made excellent progress toward increasing the number and quality of applicants to the program. We had reduced the course offerings to a minimum and have had great success in sending graduates from our program on to distinguished Ph.D. programs in the U.S. It was pointed out that continued success is heavily dependent upon increasing the number of regular faculty who could serve as thesis committee chairs and members. The lack of faculty is the vulnerability of the department and indirectly the vulnerability of the graduate program as well. This point was noted by the external reviewer and acknowledged in MOU with the provost.

11. Resource implications (including library, facility, and equipment) of the proposed suspension, e.g. budgeted expenditures that will be suspended or cancelled, funding that has been committed but which will not be used, grants that would be jeopardized, etc.

We are forced to suspend the graduate program as a way to free up resources for the undergraduate program which is being seriously threatened by cuts. While students have served as research assistants on past grants, no current grants are linked to the program. Thus, no grants would be compromised. The budget cuts have forced this decision, so the lack of funding for instruction has resulted in the need to write this proposal. It is the lack of resources allocated to CLASS that has moved us in this direction.

12. The changes that would be necessary in order to resume offering the program and how those changes will be accomplished in the proposed period of suspension (a list of activities, personnel responsible, budgetary implications, and completion dates/timetable for implementation).

Because we are strongly committed to the graduate program, we will resume the program when we are able to staff undergraduate courses with lecturer positions. When the university resumes hiring tenure track faculty Sociology will undoubtedly be among the first to receive new positions. Sociology will aggressively rebuild to levels of regular faculty commensurate with its level of service to students.

Appendices attached

Appendix A

Suspension of Soc. Master's Program

Reply | Benjamin Bowser to Eric, me
show details 4:43 PM (1 hour ago)

Eric: Because of the budget cuts my faculty has voted to suspend our graduate program for a two year period. We are notifying you of this pending change since Stat 3010 is a core requirement for our graduate program. Stat 3010 will remain a core requirement when we resume our program in 2012. CAPR requires that we include your response to this plan in our suspension proposal since this change may impact enrollment in Stat 3010. Approximately, 12-15 students enroll in Stat 3010 each year.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Benjamin Bowser

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REPLY from Statistics Dept

Ben,

Thank you for the reminder.
I am very sorry to hear that your department has had to make such a decision.

We acknowledge being informed of your department's decision and we will plan accordingly.

When you restart offering your MS degree will be happy to offer Stat 3010 again to your students.

Thank you,

Eric Sues

Appendix B

E-mail to Graduate Students

Pat Jennings

show details 6:25 PM (7 minutes ago)

Dear Graduate Students;

As you may have heard we are in the process of writing a proposal that request a two-year suspension of the graduate program. We deeply regret this decision, but budget cuts have forced us to move ahead on this.

The suspension will not impact your ability to graduate. Most of you will have completed theory and methods by the end of spring term. We are asking that capstone courses and topic seminars be offered throughout the period of the suspension. Moreover, we will accept independent study courses as substitutions for topic seminars if need be. Finally, we will serve on your capstone committees.

The Committee on Academic Program and Review request that we notify you and that we solicit comments from you. Please send me comments, questions or concerns via e-mail. Please send your e-mail to my direct address: pat.jennings@csueastbay.edu

Regards, Prof Jennings

STUDENT RESPONSES TO MY INITIAL E-MAIL INFORMING THEM OF OUR PLANS TO SUSPEND THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

1. Reply |lbazul to Pat
show details Mar 2 (2 days ago)

Hi Pat,

What does this mean to me? Is there a possibility that the school will not accept or offer capstone course? Is there a limit on how many independent study course can I take and will that effect my shot at a PhD. program?

thxs Tee

- Show quoted text -

2. Reply |Miya Frank to Pat
show details Mar 2 (2 days ago)

Hey Dr. Jennings,

What does this mean exactly? After this spring there will be no more classes with teachers? The classes we will get credit for are independent study (working on our thesis)? It seems like we will be able to finish and still have help as we write our thesis? I feel like I need help and guidance with my thesis, what does that mean for my thesis?

Hope you are doing well,
Miya Frank
- Show quoted text -

3. Reply |Stacey Westley Quick to me
show details Mar 3 (1 day ago)

Hello Dr. Jennings,

If I am in the process of writing my thesis and all my courses are completed, does this affect me in any way? I will be done with my thesis by the Spring 2010 quarter.

Sincerely,
Stacey Quick

4. Reply |Ericka Huggins to Pat
show details Mar 3 (1 day ago)

hi Pat,
wow...i wish all of you the best on this!!!
ericka

5. Reply |Cathy Brown to Pat
show details 6:38 PM (15 hours ago)

Dr. Jennings,

It is, indeed, a sad day for students, faculty, and education. How did we get into this situation? There must be enormous pressure on the faculty at this time. Hopefully, the tide will begin to turn soon. Is there anything we can do? Please let me know. Take

Cathy,
xu9379

MY E-MAIL REPLY TO THE ABOVE STUDENT INQUIRES

Reply |Pat Jennings to Ibazul, Pat
show details 10:07 AM (0 minutes ago)

Hello All,

The following is a response to several of your questions. PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE E-MAIL. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO WROTE BACK, PLEASE SEND A RESPONSE LETTING ME KNOW IF I ADDRESSED YOUR QUESTIONS ADEQUATELY OR LET ME KNOW IF HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS.

RESPONSE:

Current students will not be impacted in any way by this change. All students will still complete a thesis or a comp exam. All regular faculty are still employed and all regular faculty are eligible to serve on your committee. You can still approach any of us for advice or help with your thesis. Once you select a thesis committee chair, they will work one-on-one with you on your thesis. As in the past, you will register for the capstone courses with the chair of your capstone committee. .

For those of you who still need topic seminars, we plan to continue offering these courses over the next two years if we have enough students enrolled in the class. If a topic seminar is not offered, you can substitute the course with a graduate level independent study course or you can take a graduate course from another department if the course fits with your area of interest.

Tee and others who are at the thesis stage, you completed your topic seminars so you will not need to take independent study courses to substitute for a topic seminar. All you need to do is continue to work on the thesis with your thesis chair. You still have a full committee.

Cathy and Ericka, thank you for the encouraging comments. This has not been an easy decision, but we feel that we have little choice since the cuts to CLASS have been so deep.

Please send me an e-mail and let me know if you are satisfied with my response (we need you to do this for the proposal) and let me know if you have more questions. If a group of students is interested in meeting face-to-face, I am more than happy to find a room and set up a time when we can meet. Please let me know if you are interested in meeting face-to-face ASAP. Prof Jennings

RESPONSES TO MY LAST RESPONSE TO STUDENTS

1. Hi Pat,

Thank you for all you do to help calm us in the middle of your own craziness there. Yes, you have given me the info I need. I sent a e-mail last week about getting together before this e-mail and info went out. Can we meet? When? I am flexible. What is the last day I can send you my outline this term?

thanks again for everything you do,

Tee

- Show quoted text -

Appendix C



The Ohio State University

Department of Sociology

March 14, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I am saddened to learn about suspension of the Sociology graduate program at Cal State East Bay. While teaching undergraduates is an important part of being a professor, I believe that the talents of the faculty members are most fully utilized in graduate seminars. I hope that as the budget crisis subsides, the Sociology graduate program will be swiftly reinstated so that the supportive, hardworking, and talented faculty members can continue to advance the field by training sociologists.

The faculty and staff were instrumental to my success at Cal State East Bay and helped me advance to the PhD program in sociology at Ohio State University. I was unsure of my abilities prior to coming to Ohio State, however, I quickly came to realize the quality of my training at Cal State East Bay and excelled in my coursework. I attribute much of my success to the challenging faculty members, particularly Carl Stempel, Pat Jennings, and Benjamin Bowser. I am proud of the Sociology graduate program at CSU East Bay and hope that its reinstatement will be a high priority in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Brian Soller

Appendix D

E-mail to Sylvia Musson, Administrative Assistant

Suspension of the graduate program
Reply | Pat Jennings to Sylvia
Show details 6:41 PM (1 minute ago)

Dear Sylvia,

As you know, members of the faculty are requesting that CAPR suspend the graduate program in Sociology for a period of two years. CAPR request that we notify all persons or departments that might be impacted by this suspension. We will continue to teach Soc 6800, capstone courses and Soc 6999. We do not anticipate that the suspension will increase your workload. CAPR request that we solicit responses, comments, etc from individuals that could be impacted by this change. Please let me know if you have any objections to or questions and concerns about the suspension. Thank You, Pat

Sylvia Musson's Response

Thank you, Pat. With this impending suspension of the Sociology Graduate Program, I do not foresee a decrease in my workload. Since two courses will continue to be taught and therefore built into the quarterly schedule, that aspect of my responsibility to the graduate program remains. Also, if SOC 6900 Independent Study or the GSX course remain options for the graduate level students, the processing and tracking of that paperwork remains. Perhaps I will experience fewer phone inquiries, but then again...who knows?

Sylvia