

The Joint Administration / Academic Senate Special Task Force on Self-Supporting Degree Programs at UC Davis

Overview:

The Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor hereby establishes a Special Task Force whose primary goal is to provide advice and recommendations to the Provost regarding self-supporting degree programs at UC Davis.

Rationale:

As UC Davis addresses State budget reductions, and in light of the Commission on the Future's recommendation to expand self-supporting degree programs, there is increased interest in developing new self-supporting degree programs on the Davis campus. New revenue flows is a key response to immediate budget challenges, and one that will be ever more important in the coming years as the University stabilizes its finances in a world of much-reduced State support.

In order to ensure that the likely expansion of self-supporting degree programs occurs in a strategic manner that takes into consideration campuswide implications and a desire to establish new programs in an expeditious manner, there is a need to provide clarity on a number of questions and implementation challenges related to these programs.

University policy on self-supporting degree programs provides campuses with significant flexibility in determining the process and scope of campus-level review, approval, and administration of such programs. This review should include both an academic review, which is the same review required for state-supported programs, and an administrative review.

While the academic review process has been followed for all current self-supporting degree programs, there has not been a consistent administrative review of these programs. Historically, administrative approval of these programs has occurred on an ad hoc basis, with specific requests addressed to the Provost or Chancellor. In some cases it is not clear if current self-supporting degree programs went through any administrative approval outside of their school or college.

In addition, this campus does not currently have a specific policy or process that provides detailed guidance on the requirements and standards for offering and administering self-supporting degree programs or determining if a change in the type of delivery of an existing program requires additional permissions.

Charge:

The Joint Administration / Academic Senate Special Task Force on Self-Supporting Degree Programs at UC Davis is charged with providing advice and recommendations to the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor regarding self-supporting degree programs at UC Davis. In fulfilling its charge, the Task Force will focus on such areas as: administrative processes and structure, financial costs to the campus, academic quality, the student experience, impact on faculty, and fees.

Activities and methodologies:

In fulfilling its charge, the Task Force will perform the following tasks:

1. Recommend a process for the programmatic and administrative review of new self-supporting degree programs that can be accomplished in a complete and expeditious manner. The role and scope of each entity involved in the review should be clearly defined.
2. Review existing self-supporting degree programs on campus to assess if they are truly self-supporting from the campuswide perspective, and recommend a methodology to ensure that all campus costs of self-supporting degree programs are appropriately recovered.
3. Review the existing administrative processes and structure for these programs, and make recommendations about efficient methods to provide appropriate administrative infrastructure for these programs (new and existing) on our campus.
4. Assess and identify issues related to maintaining the academic quality of both self-supporting and related State-supported degree programs as self-supporting degree programs expand, and make recommendations on ways to ensure that quality standards are maintained.
5. Assess and identify issues related to the impact of self-supporting programs on the student experience for both self-supported and State-supported students, and make recommendations on ways to address these issues. This should include reviewing issues related to providing academic and non-academic services and financial support to students in self-supporting degree programs.
6. Assess and identify issues related to the impact of self-supporting programs on faculty, and make recommendations on ways to address these issues.

7. Assess and identify issues related to the level of self-supporting fees in light of revenue-generation opportunities, market factors, and their relationship to other campus fees, and make recommendations to address these issues.

The Office of Budget and Institutional Analysis will provide to the Task Force staff support and detailed background information and analysis on this topic.

Timeline:

May 2011: Establishment of Task Force

October 2011: Task Force submits recommendations in final report to the Provost, who in turn will share report with the Chancellor

Fall 2011: Issuance of campus policy on self-supporting degree programs (in effect for programs starting in Fall 2012)

Membership:

The following individuals were selected to serve on the Task Force by the Provost and the Chair of the Senate after receiving recommendations from the Senate's Committee on Committees:

Trish Berger, *Professor, Department of Animal Science*

Steven Currall, *Dean, Graduate School of Management*

Jeffery Gibeling, *Dean, Graduate Studies*

Ellen Gold, *Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences, and Center for Health and the Environment*

Jana Katz-Bell, *Assistant Dean, School of Nursing and School of Medicine*

Andre Knoesen, *Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Harold Levine, *Dean, School of Education (chair)*

Dennis Pendleton, *Dean, UC Davis Extension*

Christopher Reynolds, *Professor, Department of Music*

Steven Roth, *Assistant Dean, Division of Social Sciences*

Jane-Ling Wang, *Professor, Department of Statistics*

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*Office of the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor
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