California State University, Stanislaus
University Educational Policies Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2010


Excused:  M. Bender

Guest:  L. Bernardo, S. Marshall

I.  Call to Order.  C. Stessman called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

II.  Approval of Agenda.  The agenda was approved as distributed.

III.  Approval of Minutes.  The minutes of November 4, 2010, were approved as distributed. Informal notes of November 18, 2010, were distributed.

IV.  Announcements/Reports.  C. Stessman announced the Two-Pass Registration Resolution passed the Academic Senate following a change to the registration period for the fall 2011 term instead of the spring 2011 term. The resolution is pending the President’s approval. The University Educational Policies Committee will be conducting the review of the registration process to gauge how it is working. The review will be added to the UEPC agenda for April 2011.

V.  Old Business.

A.  Policy for Online and Technology Mediated Courses and Programs.  Deferred.

B.  Proposal for Program Discontinuance of the Bachelor of Science and the Minor in Computer Information Systems.  UEPC scheduled an open hearing on Thursday, November 18, 2010, to discuss the Proposal for Program Discontinuation of the BS and Minor in Computer Information Systems. Twenty-three people were in attendance including faculty, administration, students, and other interested parties. The UEPC was asked to consider two recommendations from the faculty of the Department of Computer Information Systems. One to consider discontinuance of the BS and Minor in Computer Information Systems, and the second to consider suspending the BS and Minor in Computer Information Systems. The policy for program discontinuance is well established on our campus with the most recent version of the formal policy (19/AS/03/UEPC) approved by the Academic Senate and the University President spring 2004. No formal policy exists at CSU Stanislaus regarding suspension of a program; however, the committee found a past precedent in which UEPC voted to recommend the suspension of the French program. The Discontinuance policy does mention both discontinuance and “curtailment” in portions of the policy. Because of this precedent and the use of “curtailment” in portions of the policy, in addition to “discontinuance,” the UEPC has decided to consider both options and use the approved discontinuance and curtailment criteria when considering the two recommendations from the faculty of
the Department of Computer Information Systems. The policy clearly states the three specific reasons for which a program can be discontinued or curtailed: 1) serious ongoing enrollment decline, 2) the program is no longer necessary or academically valid, or 3) in the event of budget restriction, but only as a last resort and after seeking alternatives. Based upon the established criteria for program discontinuance and or curtailment, the University Educational Policy Committee strongly recommends against either discontinuance or suspension of the Computer Information Systems Bachelor of Science or Minor degrees. Following discussion, the committee voted unanimously, with one abstention, against discontinuance and voted seven yes votes, with three abstentions, against suspension. C. Stessman will draft a recommendation for review at the next scheduled UEPC meeting. Discussion will continue at the next scheduled UEPC meeting.

C. Revised G.E. Goals and Objectives. S. Marshall joined the UEPC to answer the following specific questions regarding the revised G.E. Goals and Objectives. Additional documents were distributed to the UEPC members to provide more of a context for the revision. 1) How is the overall structure going to look? S. Marshall stated the overall objectives to the G.E. program are found under each of the 3 essential goals of the program. The current curriculum will not change except for some modifications to the First-Year Experience curriculum. The current organization of the G.E. program (the specific areas of the G.E. program) and the course offerings will remain until there is a set process for the recertification of each general education course. S. Marshall stated that the G.E. Subcommittee members prefers the original revision and not the simplified version that she took to the subcommittee following the ideas posed at the UEPC meeting on October 28, 2010. 2) How will critical thinking fit within the G.E. program? S. Marshall stated that critical thinking will be manifest in various parts of the program throughout the curriculum. 3) Will students have to meet each bullet of each of the goals? S. Marshall stated that no, every course will not have to meet all of the objectives. A representative from every course will be completing the course matrices in order to capture a snapshot of how our current curriculum meets the goals. The matrix is not meant to be exhaustive. The task of revising the G.E. Goals and Objectives has been a difficult task. S. Marshall is requesting direction as to the next step in this development. The Goals and Objectives is the first stage of revision, to be followed by an Assessment Plan for the general education program. S. Marshall stated that an overriding question concerning the general education program is the organizational structure. The G.E. Subcommittee is a small body and the membership changes every year. The program needs a permanent organizational structure and a body to be able to share the workload, instead of it falling onto one Director and a subcommittee of the UEPC. The question needs to be raised. S. Marshall’s term as Faculty Director of General Education expires at the end of spring 2011. This topic will need to be approached again. The UEPC thanked S. Marshall for her work, dedication, and insights. Following discussion, the UEPC agreed to send the revised G.E. Goals and Objectives forward to the Senate Executive Committee for discussion with the addition of the term “critically” under goal 3.


VI. New Business.

B. Removal of Section Caps for ETHS/GEND Courses. Deferred.

VII. Subcommittee/Committee Reports. Minutes were received from the Assessment of Student Learning Subcommittee (10/18/10, 11/15/10), the General Education Subcommittee (10/18/10, 11/1/10, 11/15/10), the Graduate Council (10/7/10, 10/21/10, 11/18/10), the Technology and Learning Subcommittee (9/17/10, 10/15/10), and the University Writing Committee (9/3/10).

VIII. Other (information only). J. Keswick thanked the UEPC members for allowing her to attend in the absence of V. Leyva. V. Leyva will be returning to the UEPC effective spring 2011. The next UEPC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 27, 2011, from 2:00-4:00 p.m., in MSR 200.

IX. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Randi Esau, Recording Secretary