

Committee on Academic Programs and Planning Annual Report, Academic Year 2021 – 2022

Membership:

Elizabeth Pollock	Chair
Michael Law	Vice-chair
Javier Sanchez	ARHU
Vasundhara Chakraborty	BUSN
Stacey Cullen	EDUC
Sioban Suppa	GENS
Robert Barney	Grad Studies
Amit Mukerjee	Grad Studies
Mary Padden-Denmead	HLTH
Rui (Jeff) Ge	Library, Union representative
Brad Forest	NAMS
Ruibin Lu	SOBL

Ex Officio Members

Amy Beth Glass	Associate Provost for Academic Affairs
Brent Arnold	Dean of HLTH, provost appointee

2021-2021 Committee Activities

The Committee on Academic Programs and Planning meets on the third Thursday of each month in the academic term, as published on the committee's website, whenever there is a proposal to review. The exception this year was March. The third Thursday fell during spring break, the meeting was moved to the fourth Thursday.

Proposals:

- Business School Concentrations to Degrees
 - The various concentrations in Business have operated as distinct majors. The committee reviewed the proposal at our October meeting, asking for additional clarification on how compensation for administrative roles would change on moving from a single Program Chair with multiple Associate Chairs to five Chairs. A revised proposal was reviewed at the November meeting and unanimously recommended for review and approval by the faculty senate. The proposal has not yet been submitted to the senate; APP has no information as to the reasons that the faculty proposing the change to distinct majors have not done so.
- BFA in Creative Writing
 - This is a new degree proposal. It was originally approved by APP in October of 2019. The committee recommended a few updates to the proposal but stood by the original approval and forwarded to Faculty Senate with a single reading. The

proposal had a first reading with Senate in December but did not return for a second reading; APP has no information as to the reasons for this.

- Degree concentration revision between MATH & EDUC Programs
 - This was an informational item only and needed no recommendation or support from APP. The curriculum in this track has been revised to better meet the needs of future educators through upper-level math courses that focus on math education.
- Proposal for 4+1 Undergraduate/graduate dual-degree concentrations in American Studies
 - This proposal expands the number of undergraduate majors that can serve as entry points into an accelerated MA in American Studies from the current single option of Literature to include routes to the MA via Africana Studies, Historical Studies and Sociology/Anthropology. The proposal creates no new degrees and thus will not require approval by the State. The proposal was forwarded to Faculty Senate after a single read by APP at the March meeting. Faculty senate saw the proposal at their April meeting.
- Minor in Community Leadership and Social Engagement
 - A new interdisciplinary minor to be housed in the School of General Studies, this minor provides a curricular roadmap for students to develop themselves, communities, and institutions as leaders to increase equity through community power and policy. The proposal was reviewed initial at the March meeting and recommended to the Faculty Senate for their review after its second reading before APP in April. Feedback was largely focused on strengthening the assessment plans and their links to Stockton's ELOs.

Other Committee Business

- Changes implemented
 - For their second reading, proposals need to be submitted a week before the APP meeting instead of the two weeks that had been required, and that remains the standard for initial submissions. This gives the proposal's sponsors more time to address feedback.
 - The monthly meetings were moved to the third Thursday instead of the fourth Thursday. The original fourth Thursday date was set at a time when Faculty Senate met on the third Thursday. Now that the senate meets on a Friday, there is no conflict. This change gives Senate an additional week to review proposals submitted to them, or the faculty sponsors additional time to respond to feedback provided by APP prior to submitting the final proposal to the senate.
- Other discussions
 - Upon a request from the Faculty Senate, the committee discussed whether or not we would be the appropriate body to undertake the review of ELOs that has been requested by the provost. The committee recommended that this task be handled by a task force constituted for that sole purpose as such a review is

beyond the expertise of the committee and equally impacts other standing committees, such as General Studies.

- Tasks for the coming year
 - The Office of the Secretary of Higher Education for the State of New Jersey has changed their document requirements for new degree proposals. APP, with the help of Amy Beth Glass, will be updating information and links over the summer so as to provide the most up to date information.
 - Letters of support from offices such as Service Learning or the Library are currently expected for all proposals. However, these letters often do not explicitly address whether or not the resources currently available in these offices are sufficient to meet the projected demands of the proposed major or minor. APP will be creating a template that can be edited so as to make this clear.
 - The State of New Jersey's Senate Higher Education Committee has recommended that the full senate approve a bill requiring all degree-seeking students enrolled in public institutions of higher education receive instruction on American government and civic engagement. If this bill passes, Stockton will need to quickly adjust our degree requirements.