

Adopted: June 1, 2004

**ACADEMIC SENATE
of
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, CA**

AS-615-04/BAISAC

**RESOLUTION ON THE
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES**

- 1 WHEREAS, There is demonstrated need in the San Luis Obispo County and surrounding areas
2 for an undergraduate degree program for working adults structured to be
3 completed on a part time basis; and
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- 5 WHEREAS, The development of an undergraduate degree program for working adults
6 advances Cal Poly's mission of service and outreach to the larger community; and
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- 8 WHEREAS, The Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies meets these needs through its
9 educational goals, curriculum, structure, and intended audience; and
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- 11 WHEREAS, Degree programs in interdisciplinary studies and degree programs designed for
12 working adults are offered by many leading universities; and
13
- 14 WHEREAS, The Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies is designed as a 2+2 cohort
15 model whereby all courses will be offered on evenings and weekends and students
16 will not be enrolling in regularly scheduled courses; and
17
- 18 WHEREAS, The Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies was designed by a Faculty
19 Advisory Committee with representatives from the College of Liberal Arts, the
20 College of Science and Mathematics, the College of Agriculture and assisting the
21 Faculty Advisory Committee were representatives from the Office of Academic
22 Records, the Office of Admissions and Recruitment, Kennedy Library, and both
23 Cuesta and Allan Hancock Colleges; and
24
- 25 WHEREAS, The curriculum of Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies meets all Cal Poly
26 academic requirements for a bachelor's degree; and
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- 28 WHEREAS, A standing Faculty Program Committee representing at least three colleges will
29 ensure continued academic oversight including the selection of classes and
30 instructors; and
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32 WHEREAS, All courses offered and instructors teaching in the Bachelor of Arts in
33 Interdisciplinary Studies program must also be approved by the appropriate
34 department chair; and
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36 WHEREAS, The process of designing the Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies has
37 included consultation and review by appropriate University Offices including the
38 Office of Admissions and Recruitment and the Office of Academic Records; and
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40 WHEREAS, The process of designing the Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies has
41 included consultation with the Curriculum Committee of the College of Liberal
42 Arts and approval by the Curriculum Committee of the Academic Senate and the
43 Academic Deans' Council; and
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45 WHEREAS, The Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies will be a financially self-
46 supporting, special session program as authorized by CSU Executive Order 802
47 and will not use any state general fund monies; therefore, be it
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49 RESOLVED: That the Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies be approved by the
50 Academic Senate of Cal Poly without reference to faculty compensation; and be it
51 further
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53 RESOLVED: That faculty compensation be negotiated by CFA and the Cal Poly
54 Administration.

Proposed by: Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies
Advisory Committee
Date: April 12, 2004
Revised: April 27, 2004
Revised May 4, 2004
June 1, 2004

Summary Proposal to the Academic Senate of California Polytechnic State University for the Establishment of a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies Degree Program for Working Adults

Introduction

As a state-supported university and part of the California State University system, California Polytechnic State University has a local and statewide mission of service and outreach. Working adults living on the Central Coast have limited access to an undergraduate, bachelor's level degree program. Their options are to either attend a private university or complete their degrees via distance learning. The program being proposed advances Cal Poly's service mission by offering to the residents of the region a degree program designed specifically for working adults.

The degree being proposed by Cal Poly Continuing Education is a **Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies** to be offered through a new program called the Adult Degree Program (ADP). The degree is designed as a 2+2 with students completing their lower division courses at a community college and upper division courses at Cal Poly. Students have completed at least 90 transferable units and be general education or Inter-segmental General Education Transfer Curriculum certified before starting course work at Cal Poly. The program is structured on a cohort model and all courses needed to earn the degree will be offered by the ADP. Degree completion is possible in three years. Thirty students will be admitted each year. When fully implemented by September 2008, the program will have 90 students enrolled.

The program will be offered as a special session degree program under CSU Executive Order 802. At this time there are over 50 special session degree programs are currently being offered by other CSU campuses.

Purpose

The Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies offers a challenging and intellectually stimulating curriculum in a format structured for working adults balancing careers, family responsibilities, and civic obligations. The intended audience is adults who have completed high school at least six years prior to entering the program, have the motivation and intellectual skills to succeed in a part-time, college degree program, and whose personal educational goals will be achieved through an interdisciplinary studies program. They will bring to the classroom enhanced work and life experiences that will contribute to the educational process.

The program builds on the general education foundation obtained through college work taken prior to entering Cal Poly. Students will have completed all lower division general education requirements before entering the program. While in the program, students will enhance and develop their critical thinking skills, analytical skills, and research abilities. They will become better decision makers by developing an increased understanding of the inter-relationships between our complex business, social, political, financial, and

natural environments. They will be prepared to assume leadership roles where knowledge and its application to a variety of situations and circumstances require interdisciplinary approaches. Students in the program will embrace and apply the skills necessary to be life-long learners.

Program Goals

The curriculum of the Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies program meets the curricular goals of Cal Poly through its combination of required interdisciplinary courses, multi-disciplinary approach, and adherence to the University's General Education requirements. The program's distinctive incorporation of courses that require an understanding of interdisciplinary thinking, use of critical and analytical skills, independent research, and decision making serve to advance the educational mission of Cal Poly. The goals of the program are to provide:

1. A broad-based interdisciplinary curriculum;
2. A curriculum that enhances and develops critical thinking skills, analytical skills, and research abilities;
3. A curriculum that utilizes an interdisciplinary approach to enable students to develop decision-making abilities;
4. The knowledge and skills for students to be lifelong learners.

Curriculum

The number of units needed to complete the degree is 180. Building on the lower-division General Education work completed prior to entering Cal Poly, students will complete six Interdisciplinary Studies courses, the Interdisciplinary Studies Major, and the Cal Poly upper-division General Education requirements. Students must complete at least 60 quarter units while in residence at Cal Poly. The five new courses interdisciplinary study courses approved by the Curriculum Committee for this program are: 1) IS 101, Orientation to Interdisciplinary Studies and the University; 2) IS 301, Critical Issues Seminar [taken twice with different topics]; 3) IS 302, Analytical Skills Seminar; 4) IS 450, Advanced Investigation Seminar; and 5) IS 460, Capstone Project

The Interdisciplinary Studies Major (52 units) consists of one course from each of the following eight areas selected by the Faculty Program Committee: Applied Technology (Agriculture/ Architecture/ Biotechnology/ Engineering), Business, Communications/English, Ethnic Studies/U.S. Cultural Pluralism, Fine and Performing Arts, Philosophy/Religion, Science or Nutrition and, Social Science plus five additional courses. Students will meet all academic requirements for the awarding of the bachelor's degree and must remain in good academic standing as outlined in Cal Poly catalog. Given the cohort nature of the program, students will initially have no options for individually selected courses. As the program grows, students will have options for courses to meet specific degree requirements. **ADP students will not be enrolling in regularly scheduled classes.** See degree planning guide for additional information.

Admissions and Records

Admissions

Students seeking admission to the program must: 1) have completed at least 90 quarter units (60 semester hours), be CSU eligible, and be CSU General Education or IGETC Certified; 2) write a personal lifelong learning goals statement documenting how the Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies will help them achieve their personal, professional and long-term educational goals; 3) provide at least three letters of reference from individuals who can attest to the prospective student's ability to be successful in a part-time, structured degree program; 4) complete a personal inquiry session (interview) with the ADP director or delegate; and 5) be out of high school for at least six years prior to entering the program.

Working with the Office of Admissions and Recruitment, the following procedure will be used for admitting students into the program.

1. Starting immediately after the program has received all necessary academic and administrative approvals, the ADP will begin holding information sessions for prospective students. Information regarding the program's goals, requirements, admissions, etc., will be available at these sessions and on the Program's web site. A timetable for the submission of admissions materials and processing of materials will be established as soon as appropriate and feasible.
2. Continuing Education will work with the Office of Admissions and Recruitment to prepare an application form to collect all information required by The Office of Admissions Recruitment and The Office of Academic Records for the Student Information System. The application, application fee and all supporting documentation will be mailed to Continuing Education. A checklist will be used to monitor and verify the receipt of supporting documentation for each application.
3. Continuing Education will send copies of the application form to The Office of Admissions and Recruitment for entry into the Student Information System. The full application will be sent to Evaluations for file preparation, review of transcripts, verification of GE and CSU eligibility, and transfer eligibility.
4. Evaluations representative will be part of the Faculty Program Committee team involved in student interviews.
5. The Faculty Program Committee will then recommend students to be offered admission.
6. Admissions will inform the students of their acceptance or denial, and if accepted, the date by which they must inform Continuing Education of their acceptance.

Academic Records

The ADP Assistant Director will be an admissions and records specialist hired under contract from, and trained by, the Office of Academic Records. Working with the Office of Academic Records, the following procedure will be used for entering and maintaining students' academic records.

1. Cal Poly Continuing Education currently enters matriculated students' registration in classes, posting of grades, grade of changes, etc., directly into the Student Information System. This practice will continue for the ADP.

2. Many standard policies and forms will not apply to students in the ADP (e.g. change of major). Forms that may have to be modified for the ADP are the course repeat form, withdrawal form, term withdrawal form, leave forms, U/WU form, grade change form, and enrollment verification form. This will be done after final approval of the program.
3. ADP students will follow the standard procedure to request an official transcript.
4. Two to three quarters prior to a student's graduation, a senior evaluation will be completed for the respective student.
5. Upon successful completion of all degree requirements, the ADP Assistant Director will post the degree which will key the ordering of the student's diploma. ADP students will be charged a separate commencement fee to cover the cost of the diploma.

Special Features

Students admitted to the Adult Degree Program are fully matriculated, special session students. They **will not** be able to "transfer" to another program or major at Cal Poly. If an ADP student determines that the Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies degree program is not appropriate for her or his learning objectives, and the student desires to remain at Cal Poly, the student must withdraw from the ADP and reapply to Cal Poly through the standard admission process established by the Office of Admissions and Recruitment. Students in the program can only enroll in ADP courses. They **cannot** "cross-register" for courses offered by other programs at Cal Poly.

Any modifications to the curriculum including the addition of new courses must be approved by the Curriculum Committee of the Academic Senate.

Faculty compensation will be administratively handled in one of two ways: 1) Faculty can be compensated using the established CSU/CFA negotiated class code schedule for special sessions, and/or 2) The ADP can "purchase" a percentage of the faculty member's regular teaching load. Under this option, the faculty member's home department receives the equivalent amount of salary funding. The determination will be made on a course by course basis as determined by the faculty member, the faculty member's home department, respective College Dean, and the ADP director.

For faculty interested in teaching in the ADP, workshops on teaching and working with adult learners, incorporation of interdisciplinary themes and approaches, and a general orientation to the program will be made available.

Support

Cal Poly Continuing Education has been documenting interest in an adult degree program. In summer, 2003 a survey was conducted of approximately 25 larger businesses in northern San Luis Obispo County, 14 agreed there is a need for an undergraduate, part-time degree program. A web-based, general public survey was conducted by Cal Poly Continuing Education from September to November of 2003. Of the 171 individuals who responded to the survey, 48% indicated they were *very interested* and 13% indicated they were *somewhat interested* in a part-time degree program for

working adults. In January, 2004 a second survey was posted and as of March 3, 2004 a total of 54 individuals indicated they were *very likely*, *somewhat likely*, or *likely* to enroll in a part-time bachelor's degree program in Interdisciplinary Studies if offered by Cal Poly. So far, approximately 40 individuals have signed up to receive further information. In addition, letters of support have been received from Allan Hancock College, City of Atascadero, City of San Luis Obispo, Cuesta College, Economic Vitality Corporation of San Luis Obispo County, and the Private Industry Council.

Resources

The ADP primary use of classrooms will be evenings and weekends when demand is lower. Administrative space for the program will be in Jespersen Hall. The University will be reimbursed services and facilities using the established policies and procedures. Additional revenue will be received by Kennedy Library when ADP students activate their library cards.

State of California

M e m o r a n d u m

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JUL 21 2004


ACADEMIC SENATE

CAL POLY

SAN LUIS OBISPO
CA 93407

To: David Hannings
Chair, Academic Senate

Date: June 28, 2004

From: 
Warren J. Baker
President

Copies: R. Detweiler, D. Parks,
D. Conn, M. Whiteford

Subject: Response to Academic Senate Resolution AS-615-04/BAISAC
Resolution on the Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies

I am pleased to approve the above-entitled Academic Senate Resolution and acknowledge that this Continuing Education degree program will be a financially self-supporting special session program as authorized by CSU Executive Order 802 and will not use any State General Fund monies. The proposal will now be sent to the Chancellor's Office for the fast-track approval process. It is expected that the proposal will be on the CSU Board of Trustees' agenda for its September 2004 meeting.

Please express my appreciation to the Academic Senate members for their attention to this important curricular matter.