Task force will review diversity in curriculum

A task force has been established to review the treatment of diversity in Cal Poly’s academic curriculum.

The task force has been charged by David Conn, vice provost for academic programs and undergraduate education, to examine the extent to which the university is already accomplishing the goals stated in its Strategic Plan, “Visionary Pragmatism,” and other relevant documents, focusing as much as possible on demonstrable outcomes rather than inputs alone.

“At the heart of the matter is the question: Have we prepared (and are we preparing) our students in their disciplines in order to be successful professionals, civic leaders and informed citizens in a diverse national and global society?,” Conn said.

“The university’s goals are inextricably linked to, and represented by, our curriculum. Gender and diversity are addressed in a distinct standard of GE 2001. The standard is not reflected in the requirements for any particular GE area or course; instead, it states that ‘All GE courses are expected to address issues of gender and diversity within the context of the material presented in the course,’” Conn said.

Beginning with the 1994-97 catalog, all students have been required to complete one course satisfying specified criteria for U.S. cultural pluralism. Some but not all such courses have also met GE requirements.

“In our review of our existing curriculum, as well as of relevant information from other sources, the task force has been requested by the end of fall quarter 2003 to formulate recommendations (with implementation strategies and timelines) on how we might better accomplish the university’s goals through changes in curriculum, pedagogy and co-curricular activities,” Conn said.

“The task force has been asked to keep in mind that, as part of our student success initiative, we are trying at the same time to simplify our curricular requirements and to remove unnecessary obstacles slowing

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In memoriam

The flags in front of the Administration Building will fly at half staff during Memorial Day weekend, Saturday through Monday (May 24-26), in honor of America’s war dead.

Fourth dean finalist to be on campus May 29-30

The fourth candidate for the position of dean of the College of Architecture and Environmental Design will be on campus for interviews May 29-30.

Bradford Grant, chair and endowed professor of architecture at Hampton University in Hampton, Va., will hold an open forum 10:30 a.m.-noon May 29 in the Smith Alumni and Conference Center.

The forum is intended to provide the campus community with the opportunity to meet Grant and to hear a short presentation.

Open forums for additional candidates will be announced in upcoming issues of the Cal Poly Report as they are scheduled.

Chancellor approves three new degree programs

The chancellor recently approved three new degree programs: an M.S. program in agribusiness, a B.S. program in software engineering in the Computer Science Department, and a B.S. program in environmental management and protection in the Natural Resources Management Department. All the programs will become effective Summer 2003.

Rogers selected to direct University Honors Program

Following a campuswide search, Computer Science Professor Erika Rogers has been appointed director of the University Honors Program, effective July 1.

She will succeed Nancy Clark, who is leaving to become dean of the Honors College at Louisiana State University.
Leave solicitation

Michael W. Elliott, an analyst-programmer in Financial Aid, has qualified for personal catastrophic leave. Eligible state employees may donate vacation credit and/or sick leave to help him remain in full-pay status during an extended absence. Those interested in donating leave may request a Catastrophic Leave Donation form from solicitation coordinator Dianne Johnson in Financial Aid at ext. 6-5879 or by e-mail.

CSEA employees in units 2, 5, 7 and 9, Unit 4 (academic professionals), Unit 6 (state employees trades council), E99 (excluded), C99 (confidential), M80 (management personnel plan), and M98 (executive) may donate up to 40 hours per fiscal year in increments of one hour or more. All other state employees may donate up to 16 hours sick leave and/or vacation credits per fiscal year in increments of one hour or more.

Summer Youth Bus Passes available to faculty, staff

The San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority has announced the return of the Summer Youth Bus Pass Program. The program provides unlimited use of several regional bus systems for elementary through high school students in San Luis Obispo County and Santa Maria for a single charge of $25, which includes a fanny pack containing current bus schedules.

The pass is valid from Memorial Day through Labor Day (May 24-Sept. 1). It can be used on all regular bus routes, including the Santa Maria Area Transit, South County Area Transit, SLO Transit, Atascadero City Transit, Paso Robles City Area Transit System, and the Santa Margarita and Lopez Lake shuttles. The pass is not valid on local dial-a-ride vans, Runabout or trolleys.

For more details or to buy a Summer Youth Bus Pass, call the San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority at 781-4472.

Farewell reception set for Morrobel-Sosa

A reception for Anny Morrobel-Sosa, interim associate vice provost for academic programs and materials engineering professor, will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. May 29 in the Veranda Cafe.

Morrobel-Sosa has taught at Cal Poly since 1990 and has served on numerous universitywide committees, including as chair of the Academic Senate in 1997-98. She begins her new position as dean of the Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology and professor of chemistry at Georgia Southern University July 1.

Middle East talk set

M. Nazif Shahrani, chair of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at the University of Indiana, will speak on "Nation-Building in Afghanistan and Regime Change in Iraq: U.S. Promises and Future Prospects" from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday (May 27). Shahrani's talk, in Philips Hall in the Christopher Cohan Center, is the final in a series of presentations sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts and the History and Journalism departments. For more information call the College of Liberal Arts at ext. 6-2706 or look on the Web at http://cla.calpoly.edu/cla/news/middle_east.html

Board meeting set

The Foundation board of directors will hold its annual meeting at 8:30 a.m. May 30 in the Foundation Administration Building, Conference Room 124. The meeting is open to the public. For details or a copy of the meeting agenda, call Foundation Executive Director Frank Mumford at ext. 6-1131.

Date line

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Tuesday, May 27

Middle East Speaker Series: M. Nazif Shahrani (University of Indiana), "Nation-Building in Afghanistan and Regime Change in Iraq: U.S. Promises and Future Prospects," Philips Hall, 7 p.m.

Music: Brass recital, Davidson Music Center 218, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 28

Music: Lauren Baumgardner (Winner of Central Coast Idol contest), BackStage Pizza, 6 p.m.

Improvisation/Comedy: Kenny Kane, BackStage Pizza, 7 p.m.

Task force . . .

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progress to degree, while attempting to maintain or improve student learning." The task force is co-chaired by Anny Morrobel-Sosa, interim associate vice provost for academic programs (until her departure at the end of spring quarter; see article above), and Doug Cerf, associate dean, Orfalea College of Business. Faculty members are Alipio Chatziioanou, Charles Cheney, Len Davidman, George Lewis, Michael Lucas, John Oriji, Doug Piirto, Ron Ryujin, Dona Davis and Mary Whiteford. Staff members are Donna Davis and Mary Whiteford.