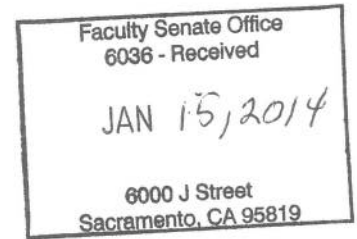




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January 13, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: Janet Hecsh
Chair, Faculty Senate

FROM: Alexander Gonzalez *Alexander Gonzalez*
President

SUBJECT: Modification In or Deletion of Existing Programs

I have reviewed the proposed changes to the policy on Modification In or Deletion of Existing Programs (FS 13/14-17). I understand some of the concerns that generated the Senate's desire to amend the policy, but in reading the proposed amendments and the resulting changes to the policy language, I fear that there may be more confusion than clarity brought to the process. For this reason, I am requesting that the Faculty Senate revisit the proposed changes and consider some of the issues that were raised in my mind as I read the policy.

1. The use of the word "normally" in some places (e.g., A.2 and G.1) suggests that there are other places from which a program modification or discontinuation proposal might originate. I believe it would be helpful to clarify who can initiate a proposal for modification or discontinuation. To my mind there are really three such entities: the Department faculty for a program housed within a single department; the program faculty for an interdisciplinary program not housed in a single department; and the administration, typically the Dean of a College hosting a program.
2. Then develop a procedure that relates to the person or group initiating the proposal. The basic model in the proposed section H.1 is a sound beginning for those discontinuation proposals originating with the faculty. A Dean's proposal should, of course, first go to the faculty in the Department or interdisciplinary program and this would provide the faculty with an opportunity to respond to the reasons raised by the Dean as reasons for program discontinuation, posing counterarguments, alternative proposals, or providing additional data, if appropriate. Moving the proposal and the faculty's response to the next level then becomes a *de facto* appeals process if there is disagreement.

With respect to faculty concerns that there might be a "stealth" discontinuation of a program by an administrator setting limits on admissions or not allocating resources to a program, faculty are always free to raise those concerns directly with the Senate, Deans, the Provost or the President. Not every decision to limit enrollment or modify resource allocations to a program represents an attempt to discontinue a degree program, but a procedure along the lines I have suggested here

would provide a straightforward way for an entity – Department, interdisciplinary program, or administrator – to start an open and honest consideration of a proposal to discontinue a program.

I appreciate the Senate's cooperation in revisiting this issue and I look forward to receiving your recommendation.

AG/cj

cc: Charles W. Gossett, Interim Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs