

**Behavioral and Social Sciences Division
Economics Department Meeting
September 26, 2012**

MINUTES

Present: T. Carter, M. Inouye

Meeting began at: 2:30 p.m.

Scheduling

Semester scheduling patterns for ECON 1 and ECON 2 sections were discussed with an emphasis on offering a larger number of ECON 2 classes in spring. Higher numbers of ECON 1 sections are standard. Online offerings should alternate in fall and spring—ECON 1 in fall and ECON 2 in spring.

Course Review

The department's course review cycle was distributed. ECON 1 is scheduled for review in spring 2013. The department needs to begin the course review process this semester. The Faculty was asked to work with Beverly in order to update course in CurricUNET.

The Economics independent studies series (99abc) has been inactivated. The faculty was also informed of changes mandated by the Chancellor's office on independent study offerings. Students may only take the 99abc series once.

Also discussed was the new course proposal for Global Economics which has been on hold since 2010. The faculty agrees that the course would be a valuable and appropriate addition to the program given the emphasis on globalization in higher education. More research will be needed to determine if it has lower division equivalents in the CSU and UC system.

T. Carter and M. Inouye noted that they have more Economics majors enrolled in their classes than in previous years.

Plan Builder

The dean distributed copies of the 2013-14 unit plan which had been rolled over for the department to edit and update. A discussion of the existing goals and objectives took place and the expected timeline for submission of recommendations for division council review.

SLOs

ECON 2 needs to be assessed this semester. M. Inouye is expected to facilitate the assessment process.

Success and Retention Rates

The dean distributed the department's success and retention rates—by individual faculty member, by course and department totals with comparison statistics for the division's other departments. A brief discussion ensued.

Evaluations

G. Miranda reviewed the importance of strengthening the evaluation process since there is an inconsistent pattern of evaluation reports submitted by evaluators. She is directing evaluators to make certain that instructors being evaluated this semester provide more substantive discussion of the four areas included in the self-evaluation report—SLOs, student surveys, objectives for improvement, and conference summaries by the evaluators. Also, conferences require a discussion of these topics and included in summaries.

Textbook Rentals

The bookstore has asked the department faculty to consider having students rent economics textbooks. The bookstore has notified the division office that many economics books remain on the shelves unsold and have to be returned to the publisher. Increase in shipping costs is a major concern.

The faculty noted that their textbooks cost close to \$200 and students prefer buying used copies online but in the future will request a smaller number of books since they must be available for students in EOPS.

Program Review

T. Carter stated that the department is scheduled to undergo program review. The process is expected to begin in spring 2013.

Conference Attendance

M. Inouye will be attending a one day presentation on the Monetary Fund. The dean directed him to complete the conference attendance form even if the event was free to all in attendance.

Meeting adjourned at: 3:00 p.m.

cc: T. Fallo
F. Arce(electronic version)
Economics Department Faculty/Compton Center Faculty
Compton Center: S.Dever; C. Lyles
Division Counselor: Y. Cooper