

April 6, 2010

VPAA Alison Galloway
Chancellor's Office

Dear VPAA Galloway,

The Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) has reviewed the responses of the Community Studies faculty to your request for information about the future of their undergraduate program. We have concluded that the fractured state of the department threatens the viability of the Community Studies major.

In the spring of 2009, CEP expressed concerns about the financial difficulties facing the Community Studies Department. After a year's time, the faculty have not been able to develop a satisfactory plan for supporting the major with the reduced resources at their disposal. Instead, the current proposals describe "teach-out" plans that will lead to the discontinuation of the major.

Although we do not recommend the discontinuation of this popular, highly respected program at this time, we have unanimously decided to immediately suspend the Community Studies major for a period of at least two years. We make this decision out of concern for the welfare of both current and prospective students.

The Department has made good progress toward developing the "teach-out" plans that are required when a program is suspended. Although we are not prepared to offer detailed feedback on the plans at this time, we would like to provide the following guidance to the Department and Administration:

1. Prospective students interested in Community Studies must be notified that the major has been suspended. Their decision to attend our campus should not be based on the erroneous belief that they will be able to declare this major. The administration should consult with Admissions to determine the most efficient and appropriate mechanism for disseminating this information.
2. Proposed and declared Community Studies majors should be informed about the status of the program as quickly as possible and assured that their interests will be protected as described below.
3. The teach-out plan should allow Community Studies majors to complete their degrees in a reasonable amount of time. The quality of the program must be maintained during the teach-out period. Any changes in degree requirements must be justified on pedagogical as opposed to budgetary grounds and will require the approval of CEP.
4. The teach-out plan should also be sensitive to the needs of continuing students who have demonstrated an interest in the major but have not had the opportunity to complete a gateway seminar or foundational course in Community Studies. Access to the major may not be restricted simply by reducing the number or capacity of courses without the

approval of our committee. Instead, the Department must clearly articulate the criteria that will be used to choose the subset of qualified students that will be allowed to enter the major. Please note that any mechanism for limiting access to the major must be approved in advance by our committee.

5. The Social Sciences Dean, the Academic Senate, and the Administration should work together to ensure that students who are unable to pursue a degree in Community Studies can declare another major that fulfills at least some of their aspirations.
6. To ensure transparency, the confidential reports of the Community Studies faculty on which our decision was based (or the information therein) must be made public.

If the above guidelines are followed, the suspension of the Community Studies major should have little or no effect on current students.

We hope that our decision to suspend the Community Studies major will not be misconstrued as the first step toward its inevitable discontinuation. If the problems facing the program can be resolved, we will be happy to reverse our decision. In the meantime, our committee is prepared to assist the Department and Administration in any way possible.

Sincerely,

s/a

John Tamkun, Chair

Committee on Educational Policy

Cc: David Kliger, CP/EVC
Lori Kletzer, Chair of Academic Senate
Mary-Beth Harhen, Senate Director
Sheldon Kamieniecki, Dean of Social Sciences
B. Ruby Rich, Community Studies Chair
Betsy Moses, Principal Analyst
William Ladusaw, VPDUE
Felicia McGinty, VP Student Affairs