To be adopted:

A moratorium on the joint CSUF-UCR Program in Environmental Sciences

Justification:
Please see attached

Approvals:
Faculty of the Environmental Sciences: 2/28/11
CNAS Dean Baldwin: 1/11
CNAS Executive Committee: 3/1/11
CEP: 3/4/11
Subject: Re. Closure of CSUF / UCR joint program
From: "Stephen D. Lewis" <slewis@csufresno.edu>
Date: Fri, 10 Sep 2010 11:47:18 -0700
To: Kurt Schwabe <kurt.schwabe@ucr.edu>
CC: frakah@csufresno.edu

Dear Dr. Schwabe,

This is to let you know that the Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences and the College of Science and Mathematics at California State University Fresno intend to discontinue the Joint Program in Environmental Science with the University of California Riverside.

The reason for this discontinuation is that only a small number of CSU Fresno students have chosen to participate in the Joint Program since its inception, and most of those have chosen to opt out of the Joint Program during their senior year. We currently have just 7 students enrolled in the Joint Program.

As we discussed in previous correspondence, I hope you will be able to accommodate these remaining Joint Program students if they choose to continue in the program. However, we will not accept any more students into the Joint Program at CSU Fresno, beginning immediately.

We are engaged in the University procedures that must be followed to discontinue an academic program, and expect to complete the process during the Fall 2010 semester.

Please let me know if you need any more information.

Thank you.

Steve

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Dr. Stephen D. Lewis
Chair, Associate Professor of Geophysics
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When I see an adult on a bicycle, I do not despair for the future of the human race.
~H.G. Wells

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To: David Parker, Chair of the Faculty, CNAS
Subject: Closure of Joint CSUF-UCR Program in Environmental Sciences
From: Kurt Schwabe, Vice Chair and Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences
Date: November 1st, 2010

Dear Chair Parker:

This letter serves to inform you of the Department of Environmental Sciences wishes to initiate the closure of the Joint California State University at Fresno / UCR Program in Environmental Sciences. A vote has been taken by the Department of Environmental Sciences faculty. Eighteen faculty members have voted to stop accepting students and to close down the program; three faculty members were unavailable to vote. We have sent our request for program closure to Dean Baldwin and understand that he agrees with our assessment.

Below you will find a brief summary outlining our reasons for requesting program closure. Our belief is that such closure will have negligible to no impact on UCR students or faculty. We also have included an attachment that consists of a letter from the Chair of the Earth and Environmental Sciences Program at CSUF informing us of CSU’s intention to shut down their program immediately; a similar conclusion may be drawn about the impact on their students and faculty.

Reasons for Program Closure

1. The program did not attract many students from either campus. From the CSUF side, their students were required to spend 2 quarters and take 24 units at UCR. Because most of UCR’s courses are offered only once per year, it was difficult to match what the CSUF student needs (or wants) were with what was being offered. This was made more difficult by the fact that while UCR is on a quarter system, CSUF is on a semester system. Hence, timing of courses was a problem which had an impact on enrollment into the program.

2. For the past 5 years, we can only recall one student from UCR that participated in this program (the program began in 2003). Hence, the benefit to UCR and UCR students was minimal at best. Furthermore, very few students from CSUF participated in this program (see attached letter from Dr. Steve Lewis).

3. CSUF is in the process of eliminating any mention of the program from their websites and brochures (as per email from Dr. Steve Lewis, Chair of the Earth and Environmental Sciences Program at CSUF, dated 9/3/2010, as well as attached letter), and are in the process of closing the program down on their end.

4. Departmental faculty administrators at UCR and CSUF (e.g., Dr. Janet Arey at UCR and Dr. Luke Wang at CSUF) have indicated that administratively the program was burdensome and, given that enrollment was minimal, the “costs” of running the program seemed to outweigh the “benefits”.

For instance, based on Dr. Wang’s email (9/10/2010), “Transfer or admission to UC took at least half [a] year. There were not too many enrollments at CSUF and perhaps none from UCR. The transcripts and diplomas took extra time to process and issue.” Devoting the necessary resources to keep this programming going seemed hard to justify in this budget climate.
5. One of the potential benefits of this program was to have a UC presence in the Central Valley region. With UC-Merced now there, this reason as it pertains to UCR does not exist.

Surprisingly, we just found out that there are seven students currently enrolled in the program from CSUF. In our discussions with their program director, Dr. Lewis, we have indicated that we will accommodate these seven students should they want to complete this program. From what we gather, "accommodation" simply requires that we make sure that these seven students can enroll in our courses.

We hope you find sufficient justification as to why we feel compelled to shut down a program that had minimal enrollment and was administratively burdensome.

Please let me know if you require any additional information to assist you in this decision.

Sincerely,

Kurt Schwabe
Associate Professor and Vice Chair
Department of Environmental Sciences
University of California—Riverside

Approved by CNAS Executive Committee: November 16, 2010
February 28, 2011

Professor David Parker
Chair, Executive Committee
College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
University of California-Riverside

Subject: Request for Moratorium on Joint CSUF-UCR Program in Environmental Sciences

Dear Dave:

It has come to my attention that there may be some additional procedures to follow to obtain closure in the joint CSUF-UCR program in Environmental Sciences. Currently, it seems those additional procedures are yet to be identified clearly. For the time being, then, the Department of Environmental Sciences requests that a moratorium be placed on accepting new majors into this program as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Kurt A. Schwabe

Cc: Michael Anderson, Chair, Environmental Sciences
    Cherie Pierce,
    Sherry Gonzalez
DATE: March 1, 2011

TO: Jose Wudka
Chair, Educational Policy

FROM: David Parker
Chair, CNAS Executive Committee

RE: Request for Moratorium on Joint CSUF-UCR Program in Environmental Sciences

On March 1, 2011, the CNAS Executive Committee voted unanimously to approve the request for Moratorium on the Joint CSUF-UCR Program in Environmental Sciences.

cc: S. Gonzalez