CAL STATE EAST BAY

ACADEMIC SENATE
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COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH

22-23 CR 16
Thursday, May 18, 2023

TO: The Executive Committee of the Academic Senate (ExCom)

FROM: The Committee on Research

SUBJECT: 22-23 CR 16: STEM Education Institute Re-charter document

PURPOSE: For action by the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate and for the Information of the Academic Senate

REQUEST: That the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate review the re-charter proposal for the proposed STEM Education Institute and either (a) refer back to the Committee on Research, or (b) refer to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and place the charter proposal as an information item on the agenda for the Academic Senate.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

One of the express duties of the Committee on Research (CR) is "to make recommendations... regarding proposals for new centers and institutes in a manner corresponding to policies approved by the Academic Senate and the President" (Bylaws Art. XVII §4.A.3). The current policy is 11-12 CR 2 revised—Organization and Administration of Centers and Institutes at CSU East Bay: Policies and Procedures.

On May 10, 2022, Chief Research Officer Chandra Khan, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, forwarded to the Chair of the CR a draft charter for renewal of the Institute for STEM Education, along with a joint letter of support from Dean Jason Singley, College of Science, and Dean Robert Williams, College of Education and Allied Studies, and a letter of support from Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Kimberly Greer. This was subsequently reviewed by Benjamin K. Smith, 21–22 Chair of the CR, and Jennifer Sherwood, 21–22 Vice-Chair of the CR and 22–23 Chair-Elect of the CR, who mutually agreed that the draft charter did not meet all the requirements of 11-12 CR 2 revised and would likely require revision prior to approval from the CR. Given that the draft charter was received well after the last regularly scheduled meeting of the CR (April 21, 2022) and so close to the end of the 21–22 term of office (June 05, 2022), the 21–22 CR Chair—in consultation with the 21–22 Vice-Chair of the CR and 22–23 Chair-Elect of the CR—determined that there was not enough time for the full 21–22 CR to review the new charter of the Institute for STEM Education, request any necessary modifications and re-review the amended charter (if deemed necessary by the full membership of the CR), and send the charter to the 21–22 ExCom with enough time for them to fully review and approve the new charter.

The charter of the Institute for STEM Education ws set to expire on June 20, 2022, and given the above determinations, the charter will not be renewed by the expiration date. Per 11-12 CR 2 revised:

> A center's charter must contain a termination date, which cannot extend beyond June 30 of the fifth year, following its establishment or most recent renewal. *In the absence of any action to renew the charter, it will expire on the termination date* [emphasis added] and its resources will revert to the next largest administrative unit (department for a departmental center, college for a college center, and the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs for a university center) for appropriate disposition. …

In keeping with the precedent set by 20-21 CR 16, and as allowed under the CR Policies and Procedures, Art. VIII §2.C. (originally added under 20-21 CR 13 and most recently approved by ExCom under 21–22 CR 15), the CR may make a determination as to what constitutes "action to renew the charter."

On Monday, May 15, 2022, the CR voted by email (Y[9]–N[0]–A[1]) to inform the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate that the Director of the Institute for STEM Education took reasonable steps to ensure the Institute for STEM Education charter was renewed by the deadline set in the previous charter. At this time, the Committee on Research committed to review the status of the Institute for STEM Education during Fall Semester 2022 (21-22 CR Annual Report), and to work with the current Director of the Institute for STEM Education to ensure that all necessary revisions to the current Charter draft are made.

However, since it was the end of the semester, the paperwork to approve the STEM Education Institute was mistakenly routed to the President, who signed off. During the October 27th, 2022 meeting of the CR, the CRO of ORSP, Chandra Khan, informed CR that the institute director was willing to make changes to the Charter document to rectify any identified deficiencies.

During the 10/27 and 11/10 2022 meetings of CR, the members made six recommendations for the Institute for STEM Education's Re-Charter draft. On Wednesday, May 10, 2023, Dr. Chandra Khan, CRO of ORSP, and Dr. Jennifer Sherwood, 22-23 CR Chair, reviewed the revisions to the STEM Institute Re-Charter document and agreed that the revisions sent from CR to the STEM Institute were adequately addressed.

The members of CR admire, and recognize the diverse, impactful, and far-reaching work of the STEM Education Institute to endow CSUEB's diverse student body with the knowledge to enable them to be engaged and informed citizens, and to be successful in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) careers. The members of CR were inspired by the work of the Institute and would like to encourage the institute to introduce newly-hired faculty to the opportunities available through the STEM Education Institute (i.e. via Back to the Bay, or in the New Faculty Orientation) as resources permit. In addition, it may be the case that the Institute already guides MESA alumni to hold leadership positions on the STEM Education Institute's Advisory Board, but if not, this would align with the Future Directions goal of embracing diversity and empowering a culture of equity, inclusion, and anti-racism. The Committee fully supports and is looking forward to the future successes of the STEM Education Institute.