

October 30, 2018

Subject: EPC Protocol and Faculty Senate Voting – EO 1100R

Dear Faculty Senators:

I am writing as a member of the campus community with regard to Educational Policy Committee protocol. At the Faculty Senate meeting on October 25, 2018, Faculty President Mary-Pat Stein facilitated a meeting that introduced the so-called GE Options as a means to comply with EO 1100R. In October 2017, the Faculty Senate voted for a second time not to implement EO 1100R. That means, faculty senate (as a democratic entity) outside the purview of President Harrison's autocratic decision to implement EO 1100R may not implement in any fashion without the authority of the senate. During the meeting, a motion was introduced by Faculty Senator Michael Neubauer to end any discussion related to GE Options, thereby honoring the faculty senate's previous vote of no implementation of EO 1100R. After some debate among faculty, the faculty senate voted to count this motion and thus allow for the discussion about GE Options.

Lack of clarity:

What troubles many faculty across CSUN's campus community is the lack of clarity around motions and voting to allow for any discussion around Dr. Stein's proposed GE Options that would permit implementation of EO 1100R. According to EPC guidelines, curricular changes presented to Academic Senate by any faculty member must undergo thorough review by EPC before they are presented. This EPC review is undertaken to ensure that proposed curricular changes are appropriate for our campus community.

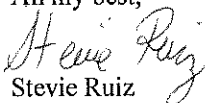
The only GE Option that may be up for debate is under the authority of the Chancellor's Office (EO 11100R). As of today, Dr. Stein presented several GE Options that had not gone through this standard consultation process. Each proposal (Dr. Stein's GE Options) requires justification, consultation, and impact reports. Thus, faculty need further clarity and an extensive review process that illustrates the impact that these GE Options will have upon our campus community. These changes will impact all departments in the Colleges of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences, but especially those in Ethnic Studies, Gender and Women's Studies, as well as Queer Studies.

Moving forward:

As faculty senate representatives of our campus community, I urge you to be very cautious about the motions and GE Options presented by Dr. Stein (given the lack of clarity about the consequences of these motions). The faculty senate is being asked to vote on changes required by EO 1100R. Faculty senate voted twice last year to refuse to participate in implementation of EO 1100R and EO 1110. These votes stand in perpetuity. Moreover, the new proposal by Dr. Stein is to consider options that have not gone through proper curriculum review by the EPC. Finally, there is no clarity about what will be the result of voting for any of the options. What will be the process going forward? Given the precedents established to this point by the CO and the CSUN administration it appears clear that any option taken will likely result in further violation of established curriculum review processes.

I think it is imperative that each faculty senator make it clear that they cannot vote unless they understand the full potential impact of each of these options presented before the faculty senate. That means, if you feel that you don't understand the full potential impact of each motion, please ask questions in the faculty senate. According to EPC guidelines, in order for faculty senate to review any GE Options, it must undergo significant review that requires justification and impact reports. Many of these GE Options were not authored by the Chancellor's Office and thus must follow proper protocol outlined by EPC.

All my best,

  
Stevie Ruiz