Academic Affairs Reduction in Classes  
Fall and Spring 2012-2013

The state budget in California continues to exhibit a shortfall of funds. As a consequence the college must continue to reduce its FTE and sections in order to control expenses and to meet the new target FTE’s set by the state.

The college is currently capped at 15,754 and it is expected that the funded FTE will be set at 14,877 for next year. The college currently has 3,020 sections in Spring 2012 and approximately the same number of sections in Fall 2011. The college is expected to be over cap for 2011-2012.

A decision was made to reduce the fall schedule by 92 sections, and a reduction of the same number of sections for spring. This will bring the potential earned FTE closer to the expected funded cap.

The following principles were put in place as divisions decided with their department chairs and faculty which sections would be removed from the fall and spring schedules;

- Protect full-time faculty load (15 units fall and spring)
- Protect major requirements
- Protect certificate requirements
- Protect classes required for another major
- Protect fall only classes
- Protect classes required for outside accreditation (Health Occupations/Technology)
- Protect classes taught every other year (there are a few)
- Protect part-time hourly classes where the part-time faculty teach something a full-time person cannot teach (specialty classes, e.g. CIS) if required for the major

Cuts were made on the basis of the percentage of FTE generated by each division in relation to the total FTE generated. For example if a division generated 6% of the total college FTE, that division was asked to reduce 6% of the total of sections being reduced. (6% of 92 sections or 5.52 sections)

It should be noted here that some divisions and departments particularly in Health Occupations and Technology cannot cut additional classes without affecting student’s ability to complete their programs. Also many of their programs have outside accreditation agencies which control the curriculum that must be available to students. This means that as more cuts are imposed on the college there are less and less departments who can cut additional classes.

A parallel activity was sponsored by the faculty senate to begin the dialogue on campus of how to frame the discussion of class cuts. The results of some table top exercises can be viewed in the attached paper [Course Prioritization – March 9, 2012](#)

Additionally AP 4021 was passed through Coordinating Committee and gives deans and department chairs another tool to look at programs which can be revitalized, or discontinued. As resources continue to be scarce and colleges are forced into a continued no growth mode it will become increasingly important to allocate resources to support truly vibrant programs.
The discussion of how to use resources and how to cut classes to more closely resemble the funded cap of FTE needs to be a continuing conversation over the next several years.

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