

Resolution Concerning the Deactivation of Academic Programs
for Submission to Faculty Senate

Whereas Section 2.2.2 of the Faculty By-Laws of the University stipulates that the Faculty “shall review and provide formal consultation on, prior to adoption, all proposals regarding the creation, renaming, major re-organization, or dissolution of academic units and programs”;

Whereas Section 2.5 of the Faculty By-Laws of the University (“Faculty Advisory Groups Outside of Governance Bodies”) stipulates that “such groups do not represent the Faculty as a whole and advice from such groups does not replace approval by or formal consultation with the Faculty” and that “for such groups to be considered part of the formal consultative process, a majority of the faculty members must either be appointed by, or their recommended appointment approved by, the Senate Governance Council, as specified in Article 2, Section 5.5, and specific faculty members must be designated to regularly report to the Senate”;

Whereas the Budget Advisory and Strategic Planning Groups clearly fall under Section 2.5 of the By-Laws as “Advisory Groups Outside of Governance Bodies;”

Whereas the rules of formal consultation with faculty were not followed in the process that resulted in the program deactivations;

Whereas the three Budget Advisory Groups included no representatives from the 4 largest humanities departments: English, History, LLC, and Philosophy;

Whereas 3 of the 5 deactivated programs and 11 of the 14 tenured faculty affected by the deactivations are housed within LLC;

Whereas the program deactivations have been publicly justified using the criterion of “comparatively lower enrollments”;

Whereas comparative data provided by the Office of Institutional Research identify 11 other programs in the College of Arts and Sciences with a smaller total number of majors and/or faculty-to-major ratios lower than those in the deactivated programs;

Whereas the programs targeted for deactivation are essential to the core educational mission of the university at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, as attested by faculty from across the university at the October 18, 2010 Senate meeting;

Whereas institutions such as the University of California at Berkeley and Hofstra University have met budgetary shortfalls by deactivating non-academic units such as Athletics, rather than deactivating academic degree programs;

Be it resolved that the Senate opposes the deactivation of the Classics, French, Italian, Russian, and Theatre programs;

Be it resolved that the Senate directs the President to reverse the deactivation order and launch a new consultation process adhering to the Faculty By-Laws of the University;

Be it resolved that the Senate directs the President to meet budget shortfalls by downsizing or eliminating non-academic units such as Athletics prior to deactivating academic programs.