

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, ACADEMIC SENATE

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*Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate
Faculty Representative to the Regents
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200*

February 24, 2016

AIMÉE DORR
PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Re: Approval of Master of Chinese Economic and Political Affairs (MCEPA) at UC San Diego

Dear Aimée:

In accordance with the *Universitywide Review Processes For Academic Programs, Units, and Research Units* (the “Compendium”), and on the recommendation of CCGA, the Academic Council has approved UC San Diego’s proposal to establish a new Master of Chinese Economic and Political Affairs (MCEPA) degree program.

Because this is a new degree, and the Assembly of the Academic Senate is not meeting within 30 days of CCGA’s approval, Council must approve the program per Senate Bylaw 125.B.7.

I am enclosing CCGA’s report on its review of the new degree, and respectfully request that your office complete the process of obtaining the President’s approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Daniel Hare".

J. Daniel Hare, Chair
Academic Council

Cc: Academic Council
Senate Director Baxter
Senate Executive Directors



COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS (CCGA)

Valerie Leppert, Chair
vlleppert@ucmerced.edu

ACADEMIC SENATE

University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

February 18, 2016

ACADEMIC COUNCIL CHAIR DAN HARE

Dear Dan:

At its February 2016 meeting, the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) voted unanimously to approve a proposal to establish a self-supporting Master of Chinese Economic and Political Affairs (MCEPA) at the San Diego campus. This terminal Masters degree program will complement existing UC campus Master programs in Asian Studies, with a greater emphasis on Chinese economics and political science.

CCGA received four reviews for this proposal. The proposers stated that they have “one of the largest and deepest clusters” of Chinese scholars “in any university in the United States.” The reviewers echoed this opinion, collectively commenting on the “visionary, collegial, and energetic UCSD-based global scholars;” and that they are “world class.” In addition, one reviewer stated that, “the only university...that has a faculty as strong.....on contemporary China affairs and teaches English (I am excluding mainland Chinese universities) is the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.” The most similar existing program at UCSD is the terminal Master of Pacific and International Affairs (MPIA), which has a broader focus. The new program would cater to students who would like to focus specifically on China, and would offer a more intensive capstone project and more opportunities during the summer for collaboration with Chinese business and research institutes.

The proposal was originally submitted as a state-supported program at the campus level. However, internal UCSD policy changed to disallow any new state-supported Masters programs. The proposers were asked by the campus to pull the proposal, change the funding method, and resubmit it. The first year’s proposed cost (\$33,000 per student) is slightly above the non-resident tuition fees for their existing Master programs. The proposal intends to allocate 30% of fees toward student aid. The proposers further justified the cost in a response to a query from CCGA:

This is a highly specialized degree that takes advantage of our outstanding contemporary China scholars. As I’m sure you are aware, this cluster of academics is unique and we believe the students will recognize that as well. In addition, as a departure from our other degrees, students in this Masters will have the opportunity to work very closely with said faculty, much more so than the MIA. The two quarter capstone is an example of this opportunity for intensive faculty interaction. And lastly, we anticipate this degree attracting the best of the best, and we are actively seeking fellowship funds from donors, to augment the 30% returned fees for fellowship in our budget model. We have a robust group of donors interested in giving to our China efforts, so we are hopeful in securing additional fellowship monies.

This is a strong proposal that received universal endorsement by its reviewers. UCSD responded well to the concerns raised by CCGA (including those from the report from the UCPB) and the committee believes this program will provide a valuable contribution to the UC offerings. CCGA suggests that the proposers share the few budget concerns related to staff support (particularly with regard to student placement) with the UCSD administration, but these concerns are not enough to dissuade the committee's unanimous endorsement of this program.

CCGA's approval is usually the last stop of the Academic Senate side of the systemwide review and approval process, except when the new degree title must be approved by the President, under delegated authority from the Board of Regents. According to the Academic Senate Bylaws, the Assembly of the Academic Senate (or the Academic Council if the Assembly is not meeting within 30 days of CCGA's approval) must approve new degree titles. Given its status as a new graduate program title on the San Diego campus, CCGA submits it for formal approval by the Assembly of the Academic Senate. For your information, I have included the CCGA leader reviewer's final report as an enclosure. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Valerie Leppert, Ph.D.
Chair, CCGA

cc: Jim Chalfant, Academic Council Vice Chair
Shane White, UCPB Chair
CCGA Members
Hilary Baxter, Academic Senate Executive Director
Michael LaBriola, Academic Council Analyst
Kimberly Peterson, Academic Planning Analysis Manager
Chris Procello, Academic Planning and Research Analyst
Gordon Hanson, UCSD Acting Dean (July 1, 2014-December 31, 2014)
Peter Cowhey, UCSD Dean
Barry Naughton, UCSD Professor
Nancy Gilson, UCSD Director of Degree Programs
Teresa Olcomendy, UCSD Assistant Dean, MSO
Wendy Hunter Barker, UCSD Assistant Dean
Lori Hullings, UCSD Senate Analyst

Enclosure: (1)

Final Review of the UCSD Master of Chinese Economic and Political Affairs Proposal

January 28, 2016

The proposed program

The Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies at UCSD proposes to establish a Master of Chinese Economic and Political Affairs (MCEPA). This terminal masters degree program will complement existing UC campus master programs in Asian Studies (with the traditional emphasis on language, culture, history, and social norms) with its relatively greater emphasis on economics and political science focusing on China.

For this review, the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) received four reviews from external sources. All of these reviewers have waived confidentiality and are aware that their reviews were sent directly to the UCSD faculty proposing this program, read by CCGA, and available to anyone else with access to this review. Two of these reviewers were recommended by the proposers (Dr. Hsing, U.C. – Berkeley; Dr. Perkins – Harvard University (emeritus)); and two of these reviewers were recommended by CCGA members (Dr. Chen, University of Southern California; Dr. Fung, U.C. – Santa Cruz). They shall be designated in this letter as Reviewer 1 (Perkins); Reviewer 2 (Chen); Reviewer 3 (Hsing); and Reviewer 4 (Fung).

The UCSD faculty state that they have “one of the largest and deepest clusters” of Chinese scholars “in any university in the United States” (p.6). The reviewers echo this opinion, collectively commenting on the “visionary, collegial, and energetic UCSD-based global scholars” (Reviewer 3); and that they are “world class” (Reviewer 2). In addition, Reviewer 1 stated that, “the only university...that has a faculty as strong.....on contemporary China affairs and teaches English (I am excluding mainland Chinese universities) is the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology” (Reviewer 1).

Existing UCSD programs

The Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies at UCSD suggest that the most similar existing program at UCSD is their terminal Master of Pacific and International Affairs (MPIA). Of their current enrollment (225), roughly half of the students chose China as their region of interest. Although interested in China, these students study international management or specific policy specializations and take only two required courses focusing on China. This new program, as stated in the proposal (p. 8) would cater to students focused on China over a more general career focus such as policy or development/non-profit management. This new program will also offer a more intensive capstone project and more opportunities during the summer for collaboration with Chinese business and research institutes. The current program may lose a few students who prefer the focus on China, but the Graduate School believes that the more likely scenario is that they will instead successfully recruit those they currently lose to programs that have a greater focus on East Asia or China (p. 8).

Program Design and Demands (requirements, curriculum)

Teaching/Supervision Demands: The course requirements (88 units of course work; 8 units in directed studies for their capstone project), are already being taught by the current faculty. The one major course developed for this program is being piloted currently, as discussed in the UCSD response to our query about new classes generated for this program. The additional needs for this proposed MCEPA will be generated by the additional students in existing classes, and the supervision of the capstone project by the six core faculty who specialize in China.

The only issues raised by the reviewers were requests that the cluster of world experts in the area of China currently at UCSD be enlarged to “increase even more the group of distinguished China scholars and researchers” and particular areas of expertise (e.g., economic and political relations; China-Latin America relations) were recommended by Reviewer 4. Of note, however, is that Reviewer 4 has no reservation about the current faculty or their ability to carry out this program.

Student Demands: The program is designed across two years (for 96 total units). During the summers, students will be highly encouraged to participate in field research relevant to their capstone project.

The reviewers complemented the proposed academic design, with one stating that “Two things that I like the most of this curriculum: heavy quantitative methodology training and an applied capstone project” (Reviewer 2).

Student Admission Requirements: Second year proficiency of Chinese (necessary to read primary source texts for their capstone project); undergraduate background in economics or quantitative methods or summer prep courses before entry; GPA = 3.0, GRE or GMAT, TOEFL for international students with less than a year experience at an English language university. In their current program (225), roughly 50 students enter each year with the Chinese language requirement already met, so they are confident they will attract eligible candidates.

Program Demand/Targeted Students

The targeted students for this program are students who already apply to UCSD, but who have historically chosen other programs. Specifically, they applied to their more general Asian Study M.A., stated that they were focused on China, and were accepted but chose another program. From these students (in 2012, $n=77$; in 2013, $n=86$), the proposed program plans to recruit no more than 10 students.

Student financial support

This is a proposed self-supporting program. The reason for this decision is described in the proposal (p. 21) and again in the response to an initial email by CCGA asking for clarification on this issue. The UCSD response, echoing what was written in the proposal, stated that:

When the proposal was originally submitted at the campus level, it was as a state-supported program. Local policy changed while we were in review, disallowing any new state-supported

masters programs. We were asked to pull it from Graduate Council, change the funding method, and resubmit it. We were advised locally to explain this in the review so that CCGA would be aware of the funding rationale.

This response sounds reasonable.

The first year's proposed cost (\$33,000 per student) is slightly above the non-resident tuition fees for their existing master programs. They propose to allocate 30% of fees toward student aid. The proposers further justify the cost in a response to a query from this CCGA reviewer in an email dated 11/30/2015 – 5:10 pm by Wendy Hunter Barker on behalf of the proposers:

This is a highly specialized degree that takes advantage of our outstanding contemporary China scholars. As I'm sure you are aware, this cluster of academics is unique and we believe the students will recognize that as well. In addition, as a departure from our other degrees, students in this masters will have the opportunity to work very closely with said faculty, much more so than the MIA. The two quarter capstone is an example of this opportunity for intensive faculty interaction. And lastly, we anticipate this degree attracting the best of the best, and we are actively seeking fellowship funds from donors, to augment the 30% returned fees for fellowship in our budget model. We have a robust group of donors interested in giving to our China efforts, so we are hopeful in securing additional fellowship monies.

Job Prospects

The proposal expects that these students will have parallel job prospects as those in their current program, such that nearly 100% were either employed or in Ph.D. programs two years after the program (p. 15). The proposal also included letters of supports from the business industry in the proposal. Reviewer 2, however, did comment on potential overlap between the existing program and this new one:

Will the CEPA graduates cannibalize IR/PS's other programs in job placement? Given that the CEPA students are taking courses from the same pool of classes that MPIA students are taking, there is a good amount of overlap in skills for students from these two programs.

Reviewer 4, however, stated that graduates of this program, like the graduates of the current UCSD program, will continue to do "particularly well and will find good places ..."

Remaining Concerns from the Reviews: Budget and TOEFL

Overall, the reviewers were highly complimentary. The only comments were on the budget (some of the concerns were addressed in the email above) and a question about the TOEFL, as listed here:

FROM REVIEWER 2: Reviewer 2 mentions that "overall, the budget seems reasonable", but asks the following questions:

1. It is not clear what is covered in the “Programmatic Expenses”, and what the relationship/difference is between the “Programmatic Expenses” and “General Operational Costs including staff travel”.
2. The proposal may also want to specify how many staffs are to be hired for the CEPA program, and how to compensate the program faculty. The budget proposal simply lists “LRF Salaries and Benefits”, “Staff Salary and Benefits”, and “Department OH”.
3. Is IR/PS going to offer career service to the CEPA graduates? If yes, how is this reflected in the budget?

Reviewer 3 had additional comments:

A worthy, faculty-initiated program could grow more prosperous and successful if the University could support it with a longer-term commitment in finance and FTEs. It is mentioned in the proposal that IR/PS has been given campus approval to hire ten faculty over the next three years. Three of these FTE are to be filled by hires to the new MPP curriculum. It is very encouraging. But the bulk of the teaching in the new program still falls on existing faculty. The authors mentioned that faculty members are enthusiastically supporting the new initiative, despite the fact that the new program will add to their teaching load. The letters of support from esteemed scholars of the School is clear evidence. I admire their devotion, but I also wonder how sustainable this scheme would be. I strongly encourage the UCSD Academic Senate to work with the University administration to consider providing concrete support in finance and FTEs to the proposed program.

Lastly, Reviewer 2 asked about the TOEFL score requirement, but the proposers responded that this is the score required in their current masters program; and that they, “do due diligence to make certain we are admitting people who have the level of English to be successful as all non-native English speaking applicants are interviewed via Skype prior to an offer of admission.”

Overall Impression: This is a strong proposal that received strong, universal endorsement by the reviewers. UCSD responded well to the concerns raised by CCGA (including those from the oral report from the UCPB) and we believe this program is a strong contribution to the UC offerings. We hope that the proposers will share the few budget concerns that were raised by the reviewers to the UCSD administration, but these concerns were not enough to dissuade our unanimous endorsement of this program.

Lead CCGA Reviewer: Susan Charles