

CSU Trustee Policy on Academic Program Planning Includes designation of “Foundation Programs”

The following Trustee Guidelines regarding program development have guided CSU planning since the 1960s. In addition, program development in some areas (e.g., engineering), is limited or guided by Title 5 or system-level policy.

1. Curricula are to reflect the needs of students and of the state.
2. The foundation program for all campuses in the system consists of the liberal arts and sciences, business administration, and teaching. The Board designated specific subject areas that would be regarded as the “Broad Foundation Program,” which was updated in 1979 by the Project Team on Academic Programs to include: undergraduate programs in anthropology, art, biology, chemistry, economics, English, foreign languages, geography, geology, history, mathematics, music, philosophy, physics, political science, psychology, sociology, speech/communication, and theatre arts/drama. Societal need and student demand are not the “preeminent criteria” for offering baccalaureate programs in these disciplines.
3. Programs in applied fields and professions other than those above are to be allocated within the system on the basis of (1) state needs, (2) campus service-area needs, and (3) identification of employment opportunities.
4. Curricula in applied fields and professions are to be allocated in a systemwide pattern that will achieve an equitable and educationally sound distribution of programs throughout the state.
5. While all university campuses may wish to offer the same programs, the trustees exercise great selectivity in the final approval of new curricula.
6. Specialized, high-cost programs are to be allocated on the basis of review and study of the individual subject area.
7. Degree programs are to be broadly based and of high academic quality.
8. Unnecessary proliferation of degrees and terminology is to be avoided.
9. Formal reviews of existing curricula are to be conducted by each campus.

Sources:

Academic Program and Resource Planning in the California State University and Colleges [“the Blue Book”]. The California State University and Colleges (July 1980). 39.

October 23, 1995 Peter S. Hoff Memo to Presidents: “TRUSTEE APPROVAL OF ACADEMIC PLANS AND REQUEST FOR UPDATED PLAN”