

Date: April 10, 2013

To: Faculty Senate

From: Robert Gould, Chair, Educational Policy Committee

Re: Submission of Educational Policy Committee Motions

Creation of New Centers:

E. 2-a Motion #1: That Faculty Senate approves the creation of the Center for Public Interest Design.

Support for motion: Educational Policy Committee members voted unanimously in favor of creation of the Center for Public Interest Design, based on our analysis that the proposal is sound and beneficial to Portland State University. We agree that the following statement of purpose fits the mission of our University, and will serve the interests of our surrounding communities and city.

“PSU’s Center for Public Interest Design is a multidisciplinary practice, research and educational organization. The Center will promote innovative and engaged design practices by supporting opportunities for collaboration, research, and fieldwork among architecture, arts, engineering, and business students, faculty and professional practitioners with communities in need. The Center will provide a framework of support to the efforts of this diverse and interdisciplinary community at PSU to engage the growing demand for design solutions and practices, which address the critical need to make sustainable solutions available to all humans in need.” (Excerpted from the proposal to create a Center for Public Interest Design.)

E2-b Motion #2: That Faculty Senate approves the creation of the Center for Geography Education in Oregon

Support for motion: Educational Policy Committee members voted unanimously in favor of creation of the Center for Geography Education in Oregon, based on our analysis that the proposal is sound and beneficial to Portland State University. We agree that the following statement of purpose fits the mission of our University, and will serve the interests of our surrounding communities and city.

“The proposed Center for Geography Education in Oregon will house Oregon Geographic Alliance (in order to continue serving the hundreds of Oregon teachers who have participated in OGA programs) and will expand to include programs in: teacher professional development; creation and promotion of instruction materials for geography educators; community outreach programs to parents and other community stakeholders; advocacy programs for geography education at the state and national levels; and fundraising programs to support the expanded activities.” (Excerpted from the proposal to create a Center for Geography Education in Oregon)

E2-c Motion #3: That Faculty Senate approves the elimination of the School of Extended Studies

Support for motion: Educational Policy Committee members voted (7 for, 1 against, 1 abstention) in favor of the proposal to eliminate the School of Extended Studies. We determined that the proposal is sound and beneficial to Portland State University, based on our analysis and interviews. EPC members also determined that this center is a significant academic entity, requiring a review by the Faculty Senate. Additionally, we voted (8 yes, 1 no) to make a non-binding suggestion that clarifying answers to some key questions, regarding the spin-off of courses, faculty, and budget, be provided to the Faculty Senate, by way of a memo, or during the Questions for Administrators section of the Faculty Senate meeting. We agreed that the following rationale for termination fits the mission of our University, and will serve the interests of our surrounding communities and city.

“In the fall of 2011, a multistep review process (which has ultimately led to the submission of this proposal to the EPC) was shared with the Faculty Senate and posted on the OAA website.

<http://www.pdx.edu/oaa/school-of-extended-studies-review-process>

There was a SES self-study review, followed up with a University level review (level 2) which included the use of outside consultants. This report was finalized at the end of the 2012 academic year and can also be found on the OAA website. A number of actions were taken during the 2011-2012 academic year, including a reduction in force. For 2012-2013 a number of actions are either in process or planned, based on the level 2 review. These have been summarized in a document and shared with the Faculty Senate, the Academic Leadership Team and the University Executive Team and again can be found on the OAA website. The answers to many of the questions in this form are brief and more details can be found by in the documents which can be accessed from the OAA website.

It is worth summarizing at this point why the elimination of the SES is appropriate. When the initial review was started, SES was comprised of Summer Session (SS), an Extended Campus Program (ECP), a Professional Development Center (PDC), an Independent Study Program (IS), and a centralized marketing, registration and accounting group. The SS is being mostly decentralized to the Schools and Colleges for 2013-2014. This is consistent with the recommendations of the SES review process, the Financial Futures Task Force, and our Strategic Enrollment Management plan, which places enrollment planning for all four quarters with the Academic Deans. The offerings within ECP are similarly being placed with the appropriate Academic Deans. The current programs within the PDC are to be moved to the School of Business effective July 1st, 2013 and the Independent Study program has been closed. The majority of the staff in the marketing, registration and accounting for these programs were given notice in late spring of 2012. Those who remain are part of a small group operating a non-credit registration system, which will be centralized and serve the entire university. In summary, effective for the 2013-2014 academic year, there are no programs remaining, which would constitute a SES or a renamed variant thereof. There are, however, a number of important functions that will move to other units on campus.

All functions (except IS) that existed within the SES will continue to operate in a manner, which is more cost effective. The academic programs (SS, ECP, PDC) will now lie with the appropriate academic units, which provide for better integration of efforts and oversight. The registration and accounting functions will be within Finance and Administration, which will both provide better centralized services and ensure proper compliance.” (Excerpted from the proposal to eliminate the School of Extended Studies)