EPC Recommendation on the

Proposed Discontinuance of the CANDEL Program

On April 2, 2015, the Educational Policies Committee voted to recommend support of the proposed discontinuance of the Capitol Area North Doctorate in Educational Leadership (CANDEL) program at Sonoma State University. The vote was 5 in favor, 2 against, and one abstention.

EPC conducted an initial review of the discontinuance proposal at its February 26, 2015 meeting. SSU Dean of Education, Dean Carlos Ayala, the proposal's author, attended. As noted in the attached routing sheet, prior to EPC's review, the discontinuance proposal was reviewed at the following levels:

1. Curriculum Committee, School of Education
2. Dean, School of Education (note proposal was authored by the Dean)
3. Graduate Committee, School of Education
4. Graduate Studies Subcommittee of the EPC

At the initial review, EPC decided that the proposal required additional discussion and review before a recommendation could be made, given the complexity of the case and need to take the views of various campus and community stakeholders into account. To that end, a public hearing on the proposal was held on April 2, 2015 on the SSU campus. In advance of the hearing EPC took (or asked others to take) the following actions:

1. The discontinuance proposal and related materials were posted on the Senate website and linked to from the CANDEL website
2. A blog for public comments was created and link posted on the Senate website
3. SSU faculty were notified of the discontinuance proposal and asked to submit comments via the blog and/or to attend the hearing (note that some faculty comments were already included in the materials assembled at earlier levels of review)
4. Current and former CANDEL students were contacted and asked to submit comments
5. UC Davis School of Education Dean Harold Levine was asked to submit comments

EPC's discussion at the public hearing resulted in the following generally shared assessment of the proposed CANDEL discontinuance. The factors noted below were considered by various committee members to be important in reaching their individual votes:

Factors in Support of Discontinuance (Pros)

1. The CANDEL program involves an unequal partnership between SSU and UC Davis. This unequal partnership has resulted in administrative decisions, including degree
program student fees and the shift of all staff support to the Davis campus, by UC Davis, being imposed without consultation with SSU. Other CSU campuses have created their own programs, rather than participate in joint programs with UC campuses, which the legislature now allows.

2. The CANDEL program does not generate FTES and therefore has not resulted in hires, which makes its long-term sustainability questionable.

3. The workload for SSU CANDEL faculty is problematic. CANDEL teaching and supervision of doctoral committees is typically done on overload, which limits faculty capacity to develop and maintain SSU-based programs.

4. Discontinuance would potentially result in an unknown, but modest at best, increase in resources (budget and faculty time) to support current SSU-based Education MA students. Note, also, that some evidence was presented that the original goal of moving SSU Education MA students into the CANDEL program does not appear to have been fulfilled to the extent originally envisioned.

Factors Against Discontinuance (Cons)

1. The presentation of the CANDEL discontinuance was perceived by some participants as a fait accompli, as if there were no other options possible, which then failed to allow for a full vetting of the proposal (and perhaps any possible alternative avenues) within the SSU governance structure, including input from the CANDEL faculty outside of the Educational Leadership program early in that process.

2. Although few public comments were received during the EPC review process, none of those submitted were in favor of the CANDEL discontinuance. The input received from current, former, and prospective CANDEL students, as well as former instructors, all strongly emphasized the desirability of the CANDEL program and its uniqueness from other doctoral programs in the region.

3. There is division among the two Educational Leadership faculty as to whether the CANDEL program should be discontinued.

4. The CANDEL program is stable in terms of student enrollment and so clearly meets a need in the larger educational community.

EPC submits the following documents to the Academic Senate for its review in making a recommendation regarding the CANDEL discontinuance proposal to the President of the University:

1. CANDEL Discontinuance Proposal Cover and Signature Sheet (including some embedded comments)

2. CANDEL Discontinuance Proposal Document, submitted by Dean Carlos Ayala

3. School of Education Curriculum Committee Review Comments, submitted by member Emiliano Ayala and chair Karen Grady on behalf of the committee
4. School of Education Graduate Committee Review Comments, submitted by member Jennifer Mahdavi on behalf of the committee (chair is Paula Lane)

5. Graduate Studies Subcommittee Review Comments, submitted by chair Adam Zagelbaum on behalf of the subcommittee

6. Comments from Professor Paul Porter, SSU CANDEL Founding Co-Director

7. Comments from Professor Viki Montera, Current SSU CANDEL Co-Director

8. Comments from Professor Perry Marker, SSU Education Faculty

9. Comments from Current (1) and Former (2) CANDEL Students (posted to public blog)

10. Comments from Dean Harold Levine, UC Davis School of Education

11. Comments from Professor David McCuan, SSU CANDEL Faculty

12. Comments from Professor Andy Merrifield, Former SSU CANDEL Faculty

13. Additional Clarification Comments from Professor Viki Montera, SSU CANDEL Co-Director

14. Minutes from the Public Hearing held on April 2, 2015

- Submitted by M. Milligan, EPC Chair, April 9, 2015; revised April 14, 2015