March 2, 2012, EPC Meeting: Jan Gasco (Chair), Jill Aguilar, Kirti Celly, Vivian Price

Gasco explained that EPC and FPC are planning to work together on considering a plan for program prioritization. Jan and Tom Norman (chair of FPC) met with Provost Ramon Torrecilha regarding this issue on Feb. 23. It seems that developing a plan for program prioritization could be productive because it would result in a process for allocation of resources in good times as well as bad ones.

Question: Are program review files (Tracey Haney's office) open for review for faculty or EPC?

Question: What is the Program review process at other campuses?

Problem: Lack of human power for the purpose of assessment/program review. E.g., programs where there is no reassigned time (Labor studies and others).

Discussion: What should be our goals.
--Make recommendations to the Senate on prioritization of programs?
-- Set criteria for ranking programs based on program review reports?? (faculty divided on desired role in this process: "shared governance vs. tell us what you decide")
-- Can program review process better follow guidelines from PM 00-03? This calls for a coordinated effort between University Planning Council, University Budget Committee, and Program Effectiveness Councils (PEC) (who are to provide "recommendations concerning programs to be supported to to be reduced or discontinued, new programs to be initiated, priorities in program planning, and resource needs…"). We do not think that PECs exist, so this charge is not being carried out by anyone as far as we know.
-- Can program prioritization process tie in with existing program review process (including PEAT)?

Discussion: Reviewing HSU report of 2009 on program prioritization. Were programs eliminated? How did faculty view the process? (CFA/Dave?)

Discussion: At CSUDH, we know of two programs eliminated in recent years, Leisure Studies and Economics. What was the basis for this? As far as we know, this was not a result of the normal program review process.

Summary
1. Program review process currently does not strictly follow process described in PM 00-03 because there is little real evaluation involved (mainly description). With some sort of evaluation, the process of resource allocation to programs would be improved, and we would be better prepared for times when there are more resources or fewer.
2. Program prioritization can only be accomplished if there is budgetary transparency at all levels. Faculty cannot be expected to participate in a process that might lead to fewer resources allocated to programs based on an evaluative process (or even program elimination) if there is not more transparency in the budgeting process. Currently, even the University Budget Committee does not full access to the campus budget.

Any process that prioritizes programs for resource allocation will not have faculty support without budgetary transparency.