

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA
ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO

THE ACADEMIC SENATE

AP-009-234

New Self-Support to the Master of Science in Financial Analytics

Academic Programs Committee

Date: 03/06/2024

**Executive Committee
Received and Forwarded**

Date: 03/06/2024

Academic Senate

**Date: 03/13/2024
First Reading**

BACKGROUND: The Finance, Real Estate, and Law (FRL) Department in the College of Business Administration currently offers a BS degree option in Finance under the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. There is high demand for graduate education in finance, especially for graduate programs that are more affordable for students than those offered by UC campuses and private universities in California, and for in-depth quantitative training in data analytics relevant to finance.

In collaboration, the Colleges of Business Administration (CBA) and Professional and Global Education (CPGE; formerly the Extended University) have proposed a new self-support MS in Financial Analytics. This proposed program is 30 credits, including a 3-unit culminating experience (FRL 6950). The program's CIP code is STEM-designated, which is advantageous for recruiting international students.

RESOURCES CONSULTED:

Associate Deans, all colleges

Dr. Sandeep Krishnamurthy (Dean, College of Business Administration)

Senate Budget Committee

Dr. Wei Yu (FRL department chair)

Dr. Sangho Lee (FRL faculty member)

DISCUSSION:

After receiving this referral, the Academic Programs Committee conducted campus-wide consultations. No concerns were raised by other campus constituencies.

In its own investigation, the AP Committee concentrated on two key questions: The potential supplanting issues, and the sustainability of the budget.

Regarding supplanting, the courses will be taught as overloads, subject to the usual CSU caps on overload, ensuring that faculty time and effort are not shifted away from existing state-support programs, and will be taught using CPGE facilities. While the mental bandwidth of program faculty is a finite resource that could always be at risk of supplanting, the department chair is aware of this potential issue, and is committed to assigning program faculty no more than 1 self-support course per academic year, to avoid strain on faculty time and attention.

Finally, the AP Committee reviewed the budget. It is constructed on the assumption that the first cohort will be 15 students, 75% of the usual target of 20 students. Under these assumptions the program still meets its costs and produces a surplus. The support model for faculty time and program administration is consistent with the usual practices for joint programs between CPGE and CBA. Additionally, the department constructed alternative scenarios in which some students only pursue the program part-time, and found that the program would still be sustainable with a modest increase in total number of participating students. The conservative assumptions here give the AP Committee confidence that this program is sustainable.

The most important factor for sustainability is, of course, the ability to attract sufficient enrollment. The FRL faculty note that the program cost is roughly 1/3 of the \$80,000 cost of UC competitors. Moreover, most peer programs in the CSU system are not STEM-designated, and hence would be less attractive to international students. These factors give the AP Committee high confidence that the program can attract enough students to be financially sustainable.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Academic Programs Committee recommends approval of the new Self-Support Master of Science in Financial Analytics.