

BFC CREM Committee

January 29, 2025 by Zoom

Present: Alex Tanford, Sena Durguner, Shu Cole, Amanda Diekman, Christi Walton, David Taylor

Missing: Allen Hahn

We invited Alex Tanford for our meeting so that we can benefit from his institutional knowledge.

Our emphasis was to collect information about school policies so that we can decide whether to keep CREM as a standing committee or not:

- 1) To keep CREM as a standing committee: If we have a standing committee, should we also have a CREM task force? What should be the role of CREM standing committee so that their responsibility does not duplicate with CREM task force?
- 2) Not to keep CREM committee as a standing committee: CREM committee dissolves and instead we have CREM task force working on the elimination/merger/reorganization.

Below are the questions we discussed during our meeting:

- 1) What are the specific role and responsibilities of CREM standing committee? How should their role differ from a CREM task force?

Answer: we talked about three reasons why initially the proposed updated CREM policy eliminated CREM a standing committee

- a) There is overall not enough faculty to volunteer for committees including CREM. We see in campus more and more of task forces being established.
- b) The people are chosen randomly into these committees including CREM. Unfortunately, the standing committee never has the right expertise.
- c) The reorganization/elimination/merger decisions are always run by Provost office. The provost talks to BFC Executive Committee and never talks to CREM. So in a way, the process is handled by BFC Executive Committee and then reported to Provost office. The CREM standing committee never communicates to Provost. Already the CREM policy is very complicated making it very hard to implement. So, the updated CREM policy ignored CREM as a standing committee as it did not play any major role, and it had limited expertise.

It is possible that we may keep the CREM standing committee, but this might be a small committee facilitating the task force, keeping record of what is going on, and then providing feedback on what went correct and wrong.

So, the responsibility of the CREM standing committee can be:

- Decision to invoke the CREM policy.
- Bring in additional people with the expertise in case of a reorganization/elimination/merger request. These additional people can be from the impacted departments/schools.
- In case, CREM can bring in additional people with right expertise for specific situations, it is possible that we might also eliminate on the need for a CREM task force.

- 2) Is there any potential for a conflict between CREM committee policies and the CREM policies of schools/departments? In that scenario, what happens to the CREM policies of schools/departments?

Answer: CREM gets into picture when more than one school is involved. Under this scenario, the CREM policy supersedes any other policy. In that case, we cannot really talk about a conflict between our updated CREM policy and the existent school CREM policies i.e. School of Public Health.

Note: in case the reorganization/elimination/merger involves more than one campus (which is very rare) or a university wide financial exigency, then we have a separate BFC policy, and it is not considered under the CREM policy.

- 3) Should we keep on combining D16 and D17 under the proposed updated CREM policy? Should we consider two different policies for D16 and D17?

Answer: The policies in D16 and D17 are the same. D17 is only motivated by budgetary issues. However, when we look in practice i.e. what has happened in the past, we have seen that the reorganization/elimination/merger decisions have always been motivated by budgetary issues. For instance, students being more interested in Kelley takes away the enrollment from other schools and causes a budgetary issue for these other schools, and thus causing a possibility that some of these departments/schools might close. So is important to keep both D16 and D17 under one policy.

- 4) In the implementation of the reorganization/elimination, who has the final authority in implementation of the CREM policies?

Answer: Provost has the authority to approve any reorganization/elimination/merger. So, it is the authority that Provost delegates to, who has the power for the final approval of the CREM policy. We might even refer to this body as the Chief Academic Officer of Campus... this might be chancellor or provost or whoever is designated to fill this role.