

Background for Disciplinary Overlap Process

1. The 2007-2010 version of SRJC's Curriculum Writer's Handbook had guidelines that placed the responsibility for resolving any perceived disciplinary conflict or duplication of a course on the department chairs initially, then on the deans, and then on the VPAA. See language below from the 2007-2010 handbook:

"If another department determines that there is a conflict with or perceived duplication of an existing course, the chairs of the two departments will communicate. If they cannot resolve the problem, their respective deans will try to do this. If a resolution is still not reached, the Vice President of Academic Affairs will handle the situation. "

2. The language above did not align with Senate Bylaws, so the new Curriculum Writer's Handbook (Senate Approved in 2021) was revised to read:

"If another department determines that there is a conflict with or perceived duplication of an existing course, they should contact the Curriculum Office. Placement of courses in disciplines is the purview of the Academic Senate, so the Senate must also be involved in these discussions. (See SRJC's Academic Senate Bylaws)"

3. While the above process is an improvement, it does not provide enough clarity about what to do when departments involved cannot determine whether or not disciplinary conflict or duplication exists. Additionally, there is no 'next step' in situations where one department reaches out to another to discuss the potential disciplinary overlap and receives no response. In this example, the conversation is placed on hold and no action occurs one way or another. Consequently, the Curriculum Office cannot move forward with the proposed course.