In 2009, due to the dire economy Legislative Analyst’s Office and the Department of Finance analyzed course repetition trends and found that 45% of 2.6 million students repeated classes over a 5-year period anywhere from 2 to 5+ times. They thought this was an obvious way to save money. These two departments look only at the financial side of things and care little about curricular consequences.

Starting in Fall 2010 the State Academic Senate heard about pressure to put restrictions on total enrollments and to change Title 5 regulations regarding Activity Course Repetition. Over the next year, Curriculum Institutes both statewide and regional were devoted to the issue of repeatability: disentangling the notions of “repetition v. repeatability” and considering the ramifications for activity and vocational courses.

Fall 2011 Plenary Session addressed final proposals for changes. The ASCCC and senates from across the state had worked hard to advocate on behalf of our many programs that have very valid reasons for repeatability. However, it was clear that these changes would be made especially due to the difficult financial times in the state of California. The final Recommendations Regarding Repeatability were accepted by the full Senate but not without a tremendous amount of debate.

For the next year, following the consultation process, the State Academic Senate informed and advocated for our curriculum to SAAC (The System Advisory Committee on Curriculum) who in turn advocated to the Consultation Council who then reported to the Board of Governors who made their final decision on July 9th, 2012.

In preparation for the final changes to Title 5 which now take effect in Fall 2013, the Chair of College of Marin’s Curriculum Committee, Cari Torres from OIM, and I, as Senate President, have met numerous times with faculty from affected disciplines first to alert them to the changes, and then to assist in working out strategies to deal with this and to rewrite course outlines.

We would like to explain what the changes are and how they affect College of Marin.