

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY MINUTES

March 4, 2009

Wednesday, 11 am-1:30 p.m., Kerr Hall, Room 307

Present: Linda Burman-Hall, Holly Cordova (NSTF Rep), Dave Helmbold, Pam Hunt-Carter (Registrar, *ex officio*), Roxanne Monnet (ASO analyst), Loisa Nygaard, Jaye Padgett (Chair), Matthew Palm (SUA Rep), Don Potts, Ravi Rajan (Provost Rep), Shawn Riley (SUA Rep), Eileen Zurbriggen.

Guests: Margie Claxton (Associate Registrar), Bill Ladusaw (VPDUE).

I. Announcements, updates, and minutes.

Chair Padgett reviewed the recent UCEP meeting for CEP. The Blue and Gold financial aid initiative was discussed. This program guarantees minimum gift aid for families with incomes below \$60K. Although the proposal is not so different from what happens currently, it does fill some holes. Perhaps the main goal of the proposal is to make the possibility of financial aid more transparent. UC's budget picture was discussed. The current prediction is that UC will be \$450M short over this year and next year, due to loss of funding coupled with rising costs (particularly for utilities). A taskforce is being created to work on UC's retirement program which is currently underfunded. Apparently all measures are on the table, including cuts of benefits to retirees. UC asked the state for \$20M for the institutional match in order to reinstate employee contributions to UCRP. The legislature took it out of the planned budget for UC, making UC the only state entity for whom the state does not assist in funding retirement. UCEP is in the earliest stage of developing a white paper intended to improve public understanding of UC's research focus. In the document they will describe the benefits that research brings to the undergraduate experience. They plan to include best practices for involving undergraduates in research. It was recognized that a method is needed to track research involvement.

UCEP discussed what is happening at the various UCs with regard to enrollments in impacted majors. Many campuses are doing things similar to UCSC: instituting premajors or required coursework prior to declaring the major, GPA thresholds to get into the major, disqualification policies, and advertisement to attract students to majors that they may be more suited to. UCEP discussed a request that earth, space, and environmental sciences be included in admissions category D (laboratory sciences). Discussion on that topic will continue at UCEP. After hearing feedback from the campuses on practices and needs associated with the taking of multiple independent studies courses, UCEP voted to propose that Senate Regulation 764 be rescinded. Their proposal must next go to the academic council for further action. In any case, UCSC still needs to reconsider the limits on independent studies courses given in Divisional Regulation.

CEP supports the Physics Department going on an 8-year cycle for their next external review. However in response to a student survey mentioned at the closure meeting, questions arose about the department's gender climate which merit closure consideration.

The Committee considered a revision to the draft guidelines on double counting and confirmed minor changes (inclusion of text more exactly corresponding to the Regulation and removal of the first footnote to avoid confusion). With these changes, CEP decided that the guidelines are ready to publish.

The Campus Welfare Committee and the Committee on Faculty Welfare will co-sponsor a forum on the UC Retirement System. The forum is scheduled for April 22, 3:30-5 p.m., in the Music Recital Hall. It is intended for staff and faculty.

Chair Padgett will meet tomorrow with the council of chairs of the Social Sciences Division and will meet separately with the School of Engineering chairs to discuss the GE reform proposal.

In his role as CEP representative on the AIS steering committee, Member Potts recently tested the new batch-grading feature and found it to be a useful improvement.

Student Representative Palm reported that the Student Union Assembly voted unanimously in support of the GE reform proposal.

The minutes from February 4 were accepted as amended.

II. March 6 Senate Meeting Presentation.

Academic Assessment Grievance Committee Chair Campbell Leaper will deliver the jointly-sponsored proposal at the March 6 Senate Meeting to revise Appendix C to shorten the time by which a student may submit a grievance. The change is viewed as in the best interest of both the student filing the grievance and the faculty member involved.

CEP continued their discussion of what would be accepted as a friendly amendment to the general education (GE) reform proposal. CEP intends to be very hesitant about accepting friendly amendments. Changes on the spot have the potential of undermining the extensive work and consultation done on every part of the proposal.

The content of SCR 10.2.2.3 is already covered in systemwide legislation. CEP would consider it a friendly amendment to remove that section. If there is a proposal to change “and” to “and/or” in 10.2.3.1.c, it would be considered a friendly amendment. It was not CEP’s intention that this section be different from sections d and e which say and/or. Also discussed was whether rewording of 10.2.3.1.i should include “that focuses on a field” before “required”. The Committee decided that they are happy with the current wording which members view as more inclusive.

CEP received suggested text regarding assessment from a Senator. The Committee discussed it and did not find it to be a friendly amendment. The text was not found to be clear and there is no time to consider it in depth before the meeting. In the future, CEP will consider how to assess GE-coded courses.

The Committee reviewed the current draft of the meeting presentation and offered revisions.

Whether there are resource implications was discussed. CEP sees their proposal as resource-neutral at the campus level. There may be resource consequences in a local way but that cannot be determined without knowing which revised versus new courses will be proposed. **Meaning of last sentence was not clear to one member.**

Data provided by Registrar Hunt-Carter demonstrated that students take more GEs than they need to graduate, on average (19.6 per student for 3,182 students awarded baccalaureate degrees last year). The number reflects all courses students took that carried GE credit, regardless of the grade received. The

reasons students take more GE course may be that: some of the courses are required for the major; students are repeating courses due to a failed earlier attempt; or students are taking some courses out of interest in the subject matter. Due to the time needed to understand the detail and the potential for it to derail the conversation at the Senate Meeting, this information will be removed from the presentation slide.

The language of the slide on the scientific inquiry requirement will be broadened to make it clear that the requirement is not limited to natural sciences topics in the physical and biological sciences.

Context will be added to the slide on statistical reasoning related to risk assessment (medical decisions, election polls, etc...).

Only a brief reminder on Interdisciplinary Topical Clusters (ITC) will be included in the presentation since no legislation is required for ITCs.

Whether to change the statistical reasoning requirement to interpreting information and interpreting data (as a friendly amendment) was discussed. A broadened description could include the interpretation and creation of information and data visualization, or the design and analysis of information architecture. CEP does not want to consider this change now since so much thought went into the current proposal. CEP discussed at length the importance of all students having a statistical reasoning requirement. The Committee understands that this requirement may push some students beyond their comfort zone, whereas other portions of the new requirements may have a similar affect on different groups of students. This is viewed as a valuable opportunity for growth. However CEP is open to faculty proposing that the above areas may fit within the guidelines to be proposed after the legislation passes. For example, a faculty member in Arts who specializes in visualization might team-teach with a faculty member with statistical expertise.

III. Combined Major in Mathematical Economics.

Further discussion of the proposal for a combined major in mathematical economics was carried forward due to lack of time.

IV. University Extension Certificate Programs.

Review of the University Extension certification programs was carried forward due to lack of time.

V. Prerequisite satisfaction and Incomplete grades.

Discussion of the Senator inquiry regarding prerequisite satisfaction and Incomplete grades was carried forward due to lack of time.

So attests,

Jaye Padgett, Chair
Committee on Educational Policy