

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
MINUTES**

January 26, 2011

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

Present: Melissa Gwyn, Pam Hunt-Carter (Registrar, *ex officio*), Eric Porter, John Tamkun (Chair), Susanna Wrangell (Staff), Peter Young, Eileen Zurbruggen.

Absent: Holly Cordova (NSTF Rep), Alma Natalia De Castro (SUA), Cameron Fields (SUA), Cormac Flanagan, Michael McCawley (Associate Director of Admissions, Lourdes Martínez-Echazábal (Provost Rep.).

Guests: Mark Cioc (Interim VPDUE), Margie Claxton (Associate Registrar), Elaine Kihara (Academic Preceptor Designee), Barbara Love (Articulation Officer).

I. Announcements and updates.

There were no announcements and no consent agenda items for this week. Chair Tamkun changed the order of the agenda, department changes to the DC mechanism will be before the discussion of the Psychology Department's admissions policy request.

Minutes were approved with corrections.

CEP's designated representative reported on the Biomolecular Engineering (BME) external review closure meeting. Some points raised which are pertinent to undergraduate education :

Advising: was haphazard, now, all the advising is done by the program advisor, Mark Akeson, who is also the Department Chair, and spoke for the department during the meeting. He asks all students to see him every quarter (but no more than 10% come).

Chemistry introduction sequence. Students have to take three quarters, whereas, in the old days, many could take one course by exam. While the chemistry needed for BME students could presumably be packaged into two quarters, there doesn't seem to be a feasible way of doing this. Akeson claimed that the failure rate in Chemistry 1a is lower for engineering students than the average.

Senior project requirement. This is very demanding. Since this high standard is the rationale for BME's current request for changes to the DQ policy, CEP expressed concern about the senior project and asked whether it is essential for all students. The response is that it is needed for ABET certification. It was not clear whether the ABET certification is for the department or the major. If the latter, perhaps one could make the senior project an Honors path with ABET certification, and have an alternative without this certification for average students.

Transfer Articulation Course Reviews this week: None.

II. GE Checklist Discussion and DC requests for substitution for courses taken prior to this year.

CEP needs to make some general decisions on this issue with departments on how to help transition old GE courses or substitutions to meet student needs this year with satisfying the DC requirement.

Points of the discussion:

Options: For GE:

- CEP would approved a request unless the department feels it is not suitable for a GE;
- CEP feels it is appropriate to grant credit for a course that was previously a GE and now *does not* have a GE designation;
- Ask departments if any existing course content changed substantially to satisfy the new GE; if there are none, then the default would be to approve these substitutions;
- Use the fall 2005 catalog year for departments to express opinion on if needed;
- W petitions are done on a case by case basis, and then precedent is set for that course.

Options: For DC's

- Transfer students who enrolled in fall 2009 are being affected, old GE's with DC eliminate the W requirement, but courses may not be coded in AIS;
- Clarification, if a student took course or part of the sequence in 2009, does it fulfill the DC requirement?
- Should department's DC be only approved for F2010 if these departments don't have a course approved for fall 2009?
- Senior Seminars are easy to substitute but other departments have very complicated DC series for the requirement;
- Transfer students need the DC over the W due to lack of courses in the past;
- Departments can ask to share their DC as long as CEP approves it;
- All fall 2009 DC's are coded for the course in degree audit for use in 2010; advisers may have decided the student fulfilled the requirement, but if a sequence of courses is required, then this is a potential loop hole, the student may not have satisfied the requirement for the DC;
- However, the procedure would be for the students to petition unless the department approved the students request.

Action Item: After much discussion, CEP voted to :

Send a request to departments asking if it would be appropriate to approve such petitions if the course did not undergo significant revision prior the addition of the DC designation.

CEP members took a five minute break.

III. Program Statements Discussion.

Designated members apprised CEP on the following program statements from the Departments of Sociology, Environmental Studies, Jewish Studies, Mathematics, Physics, Music, and the Film and Digital Media.

Sociology – CEP members found the sociology program statement unproblematic and approved with a minor request for sub committee members to review the undergraduate adviser's pre requisite course list and that the url be placed in their program statement. For students pursuing the GISES major/minor , Sociology now wants a proposal for the senior project before taking the senior seminar in which project is done. The cover letter says the proposal is to be turned in one quarter prior to enrolling. Revised catalog copy says submission is one quarter prior to graduation, prior to admission to seminar. CEP would like to recommend the latter statement seems a more reasonable requirement.

Action Item: CEP will request Sociology for the current prerequisite list of courses, URL link in the current catalog and senior project clarification.

Environmental Studies(ENVS): Just one additional course has been added to the requirements for the majors. Consultation is important before a student can take some of these courses, the student may need to have a permission code. One course requirement has been dropped. The requested no substitutions for prerequisites maybe problematic for transfer students who must take AMS7/L after admission. The department may wish to reconsider this. CEP's response will include the following:

1. The request for an additional introductory course, has consultation with the other departments confirmed availability for your majors? CEP would like confirmation that Physics and Sociology will be able to accommodate Environmental Studies majors before the committee can approve, please send your response to the CEP analyst, Susanna Wrangell, swrangel@ucsc.edu.
2. The request to remove the *Environmental Sciences and Policy* from the catalog is approved and we wish to thank the department for following up with the other department stakeholders.

Action Item: CEP will send the recommendations to the department for revisions.

Jewish Studies:

- Would the department consider putting the Jewish Studies program URL in the program statement for students and others to reference ?
- Send in list of undergraduate advisers list of courses referenced in the program statement.

Action Item: CEP will send the recommendations to the department for revisions.

Mathematics: was approved as submitted.

Physics:

- The paragraph on "Students have to satisfy a computer programming ... " should also apply to Applied Physics Majors, since they can take a wide range of electives, in some of which instructors will set problems needing a numerical solution.
- The request for change in CHEM 1 as a requirement for Applied Physics Majors; there are no confirming documents on consultation with the Chemistry Electrical Engineering Departments confirming the availability for physics majors. CEP would like confirmation that both departments have been consulted.
- While decisions on which electives are appropriate for which major is the purview of the department, CEP notes with surprise that Physics 171, "General Relativity, Black Holes and Cosmology" is included in the list of electives for the Applied Physics major. The committee eagerly anticipates learning of the applications of black holes at a future time.

Action Item: CEP will send the recommendations to the department for revisions.

Music: Request

- CEP would like clarification on the program statement, the department checked the box for “references to information found only on the department website”. CEP would like clarification on the type of information being referenced on the website that is not in the catalog. All relevant information for the major should appear in the catalog as it is the official reference.

Action Item: CEP will send the recommendations to the department for revisions.

Film & Digital Media: was approved as submitted.

IV. Systemwide Review of 5 Year List Systemwide Reporting.

CEP would like to stress that important undergraduate majors are disappearing, majors that have historically been of interest to underrepresented groups. While we understand and support the natural progression of changing majors and see the advantages of the majors being proposed, we nevertheless are troubled that existing undergraduate programs with popular majors are disappearing or being weakened due to lack of resources.

Action Item: CEP will send the recommendations to the senate chair.

V. Department Changes to DC Mechanism

Chair Tamkun has been approved by CEP members to look over all DC proposals submitted last year and if there are no significant changes he will approve them or bring back to the committee for discussion and approval.

Action Item: Chair Tamkun will report to CEP on the February 02, meeting.

VI. Discussion of Psychology’s request to restrict admission to their majors.

CEP would like to applaud the Psychology Department for a well written program statement. CEP feels Psychology’s disqualification policy is a model case and an opportunity to work with the department on this well thought out proposal. After a thorough discussion the committee’s recommendations are:

- The disqualification policy would include a sunset clause including transfer students and be re addressed at the next program external review. The department would have a full year to discuss what could be done and the current majors would not be affected;
- CEP is concerned about protection of the major, it is not addressed;
- Student diversity is at risk for undergraduates maybe add ELWR or WRIT 2 as a pre requisite before they start courses for the major;
- LSS would also need a commitment in funding to accommodate larger population of students;
- Impacts on diversity is a concern with the B- requirement.

So attests,

John Tamkun, Chair
Committee on Educational Policy