

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
MINUTES**

**March 8, 2006
12:15-1:45, KERR HALL RM 307**

Present: Heather Bullock, Pedro Castillo (Provosts Rep), Tim Fitzmaurice (Non-senate teaching faculty rep), Richard Hughey (Chair), Pamela Hunt-Carter (Registrar, ex-officio), Tracy Larrabee, Anatole Leikin, Roxanne Monnet (ASO staff), Jaye Padgett, John Tamkun.

Guests: Cher Bergeon (Preceptor Rep), Margie Claxton (Academic Editor), Bill Ladusaw (VPDUE), Michael McCawley (Associate Director, Admissions).

Absent: Floyd Amuchie (SUA representative).

I. Announcements and updates.

There will be a Special Meeting of the systemwide Academic Senate on March 13.

Physical and Biological Sciences Dean Thorsett submitted a response to CEP's letter regarding their divisional academic plan. CPB is currently meeting with divisional deans. During spring quarter there are likely to be meetings with each dean and representatives from other Senate committees (jointly).

At the recent AAC meet this 5 year planning process was discussed. In academic division planning, the administration's current areas of focus include: Health, human health, medicine; environment and policy; identity (ethnicity, sociology, etc); transnational and globalization; communication (arts, visual communication); and advanced technology

CP/EVC Kliger will continue to cover the financial shortfall in the languages (currently \$100,000) with temporary funding for the next couple of years.

Committee members were encouraged to get involved in yield activities for entering freshman and to pass the word of this need to other faculty.

UCEP recently held a conference call meeting. Their undergraduate mission statement letter was finalized, as was the letter regarding issues around the use of graduate students as primary instructors of courses.

There will be two spring Senate Meetings: Wednesday, April 26, and Friday, May 19.

The Committee learned that the Bioinformatics Major is referring to one of their major programs an honors major, for which no provision exists presently at UCSC. The sponsoring unit will be reminded that they may explain that the program has significant time demands and is rigorous but may not say that it is an honors major.

There was a brief discussion of the cross-listed course ENGR 11A/ECON 11A. It is listed as a course that students may not take for credit in addition to Math 11A due to their similarity. Math 11A carries the IN, whereas ENGR 11A/ECON 11A carried neither the IN nor the IS. CEP sees petitions from students to use ENGR 11A/ECON 11A toward one IN with some regularity. CEP will ask the sponsoring unit whether or not they envision the course as an IN or IS, if either, and whether they would like to put the course forward for one of these designations. It was noted that Economics is the department of record for this course.

The Committee was also reminded that while some courses may serve as a T in multiple areas, no courses serve as an I in more than one area of IH or IN or IS. Also, while students may not take both of their IH or IN or IS in one department, they may select a course that counts as an I from one department and another course from the same department that counts toward a different topical I (such as IH/IS).

The Committee was asked to consider their spring quarter schedules. It will be decided next week whether to return to Wednesdays at 12:30-2 p.m. for spring 2006. CEP will meet during finals week for both winter and spring quarters.

II. Minutes. The March 1 minutes were accepted.

III. Divisional plan review.

Having discussed all five divisional reports, CEP is concern regarding walls that appear to be going up across campus around GE courses. This is one of the over-riding concerns regarding academic planning.

Humanities

The Committee discussed the temporary academic staffing related financial challenges for the division and the Writing Program and languages in general. Not adequately meeting the Writing Program and languages challenges has campuswide ramifications.

It was noted that at least 1 department in this division has no junior faculty. CEP will encourage the Humanities Division to consider their balance of junior versus senior faculty in order to be prepared for when current faculty reach retirement age.

The Committee discussed the movement in this division toward more teaching by graduate students, especially in the languages. CEP discussed the pros and cons of graduate students serving as primary instructors as a planned part of the curriculum. The Committee would like the division to plan and design a system around this, keeping the well-being of both the undergraduates and graduate instructors in mind. The Committee would like training for graduate instructors be addressed in the plan.

CEP is concerned that reductions in course offerings (eg. languages and Writing) may close some curricula to students outside the division. Not only does this accentuate the current challenges around meeting GE needs, it also goes against the spirit of liberal education.

This divisional report seemed to lack a pedagogical plan.

The Committee felt that not enough data was provided to make judgments in a number of areas of this report.

The lack of planning for summer session was noted.

Social Sciences

The Committee recognized this to be a stronger proposal than most seen in this process. They found the data to be helpful, summer session was mentioned, numbers of degrees produced was given. This division discussed the balance of their junior versus senior faculty. More discussion regarding undergraduate programs was given than in most other reports.

The division asserts that there has recently been deterioration in some social sciences undergraduate programs. CEP would like to see what solutions the division as to offer for this problem and asks if data is available to identify the key areas at risk.

IV. Program statement review.

Psychology

The Psychology Department wants to replace the senior exam with a senior seminar capstone course. CEP approved this request on the assumption that a paper and presentation are always required for this course. These requirements will be verified before the approval is confirmed to the department.

Sociology

Concern was expressed by the Committee regarding the request to delay declaration of the major for sociology students until beyond their 90th unit. This portion of the request is not supported. The Committee does not want to have an open-ended possibility for students be undeclared at senior standing. The department will be encouraged to work with the academic advising coordinator and college preceptors to consider how to monitor advanced students interested in sociology. CEP recognized that the viable exception is for transfer students since their may have an issue as to when they are able to take the prerequisite course to declare. The department will be encouraged to reconsider their pre-major and how it may be affecting the timeline for students to track into the major.

CEP considered the request to institute a GPA limit on a sequence of lower-division courses required for the major as a way of dissuading student from the major earlier in their time to

degree. The Committee wonders if consideration has been given as to where those student who are turned away will go and whether those programs are ready for the probably increase.

With the exception regarding extension time of before declaration and the statement in their proposed text akin to catalog rights, the Committee approved the requested changes for a two-year period at which time the situation will be reconsidered.

V. Writing-Intensive subcommittee update.

Carried forward.

Attest,

Richard Hughey, Chair
Committee on Educational Policy