

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
MINUTES
January 24, 2007
12:30-2 p.m., Kerr Hall RM 307**

Present: Heather Bullock, Joel Ferguson (Provost rep), Russ Flegal, David Helmbold, Pamela Hunt-Carter (Registrar, ex officio), Anatole Leikin, Roxanne Monnet (ASO staff), Loisa Nygaard, Jaye Padgett (Chair).

Absent: Flori Lima (SUA rep), Sarah-Hope Parmeter (NSTF rep).

Guests: Margie Claxton (Associate Registrar), Bill Ladusaw (VPDUE), Michael McCawley (Associate Director, Admissions), Stacey Sketo-Rosener (Academic Preceptor).

I. Announcements.

Members were reminded to see Associate Registrar Claxton regarding course approval requests.

The February 9 Senate Meeting has been cancelled. The March 9 Senate Meeting will occur and CEP may put legislation on the agenda for that meeting, as well as a report responding to last year's Resolution on Retention.

The Committee was reminded of the Dialog on Activism scheduled for Thursday, January 25, from 12 noon to 5 p.m.

Chair Padgett provided a handout for member consideration to generate discussion on the writing-intensive requirement at a future meeting.

II. Minutes. The January 10 minutes were accepted as amended.

III. External Reviews Draft Charge Discussions.

Philosophy: CEP considered a draft response to the Philosophy Department External Review draft charge. A few text changes were suggested. The Committee supports the letter with these changes.

Writing Program: CEP discussed the budgetary challenges that are before the Writing Program. It was noted that this year's ELWR pass rate was 66 percent, down from 70+ percent last year and 80+ percent the year before. The Committee again speculated regarding a connection between the discontinuation of universal tutoring (free to students) and reduction in ELWR pass rates through students' initial quarters at UCSC. The Committee expressed a desire for more student feedback regarding the Writing Program and the courses that it offers.

There was discussion regarding the Memorandum of Understanding between the VPDUE Office, Humanities Dean's Office, and the Writing Program intended to clarify the financial support that the Writing Program can expect to receive to meet its charge of supporting the Entry Level Writing Requirement and C1/C2 requirements. VPDUE Ladusaw explained to CEP that the MOU does not at this time address other interests that the campus may have for the program, including any needs for the writing-intensive requirement, but that it could be revised in time to meet changing needs and requirements.

A revision of CEP's response to the Writing Program's external review draft charge will be circulated via email for quick turn around in order to meet the January 31 deadline.

As an aside, it was noted that teaching assistant training is not mentioned in the universal charge for all departments and programs. CEP will consider at a later date what feedback to give to the Vice Provost of Academic Affairs regarding the external review process overall.

IV. Catalog topics.

Film and Digital Media (FDM): The request by FDM for a pre-major was discussed. If the students enter the pre-major at the time of 3rd quarter advising, it may be that they will need to return to "repeat" the process to declare the major one year later. Last year's CEP suggested a method for early entry into the major to avoid what looks like extra staff work. CEP recognizes that since that time FDM has given considerably more thought to their request. It now seems that they are aware of the impact that this may cause on their staff. They seem aware of the options available to them and prefer this one. One advantage may be that the pre-major is expected to reduce the department's having to hand out permission codes. It was noted that the Art and Psychology pre-majors are very valuable to those departments in order to track students through their majors in a timely fashion. Biology, on the other hand, discontinued theirs due to what they found to be extra work without sufficient gain.

The Committee was reminded of some distinctions between proposed and pre-majors. Pre-majors are generally designed in a way that allows departments to not accept students into the major if they are not succeeding by some benchmark. For example, if a student's performance is not adequate in lower-division coursework, that student may be denied admission to the major. Proposed majors do not have the same screening ability as pre-majors, as relates to course enrollment restrictions. The only course restriction change seems to be for FDM 120.

The Committee will ask the department how the pre-major will apply to their transfer students. The word "upper-division" needs to be added before "transfer" in this section for clarity. If they require that upper-division transfer students declare immediately, they can get them on-track with their courses. It was noted that FDM does not currently articulate their courses.

CEP supports the general idea of a pre-major for FDM, assuming the transfer student concerns are resolved. The department will be reminded that they still need to provide guidance in some way for students who are not ready to declare the pre-major. CEP also supports their honors request.

Chair Padgett will email the department regarding the transfer student questions. FDM will be asked to report back to CEP in a couple of years to let the Committee know how the pre-major is working out.

V. Retention task force draft charge.

The Committee was reminded that they should not only provide a draft retention task force per the Senate Executive Committee's request but that CEP should also respond to the May 2006 resolutions. They discussed some points for the Senate response and for the draft charge. Discussion on this topic will continue at the next meeting.

Attest,

Jaye Padgett, Chair
Committee on Educational Policy