

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
MINUTES
February 14, 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: 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 and W topics

CEP Chair Padgett apprised the Committee of the feedback that he received to the draft proposal for funding of the writing-intensive (W) requirement from his discussion with the Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) and the Academic Advisory Committee (AAC) last Thursday.

CPB gave favorable feedback to the draft proposal. At the AAC meeting, no support was expressed for dedicated funding. It was noted that the request would likely need to be considered during the regular budget cycle for UCSC. Concern was voiced that if the proposal is funded, departments that currently provide for the W requirement for their majors may stop funding them, creating a far worse funding shortfall. The group at AAC discussed whether the expectations of the W are too rigorous. The group discussed the damage that may be caused by short- or long-term suspension of the W requirement or by diminishing the value of it. Requirements like our W are a national trend which we would be falling behind of if we compromised its quality or discontinued it. The top Administration asked what could be done to make the teaching of W courses more tolerable for the faculty. Central and divisional administration wondered whether this was a top priority of the Senate for funding.

The Committee would like to invite divisional deans to an upcoming winter meeting.

CEP again discussed how to get through the W shortage in the short term. Members are mixed on the topic of waiving the requirement (if possible), versus softening the expectations of the W substitution petitions. After some discussion, the Committee empowered the Chair to be more generous regarding W petitions than the written guidelines may currently suggest, using his own discretion in making these decisions.

At next week's meeting a draft resolution and report on the W requirement will be discussed.

Since the last meeting Chair Padgett asked the Committee via email whether they supported the offering of W courses in the summer. He reported that all members who responded were in support of these offerings. He will email the chair of the Writing Program to let her know the Committee's decision and to ask that she review summer course proposals without a negative view due specifically to their being offered in a 5-week summer session rather than 10-week session.

II. Minutes. The minutes for January 31 were accepted as amended.

III. University Extension (UNEX) Certificate Proposals.

Personal Fitness: Acting Vice Provost Carl Walsh provided feedback to CEP's questions regarding this certificate proposal. 3.0 is the GPA requirement for all UNEX certificate programs. Due largely to the lack of an academic program in this area, a UCSC Senate member cannot be found for the advisory committee. CEP thinks that some connection to UCSC is important in part to foster interactions with UCSC central. With this in mind CEP will recommend, but not require, that UNEX work with an advisor such as a representative from OPERS. With regard to the internship discussed in the proposal, the feedback was that they expect most taking it to be professionals in the field already. They are willing to require it but would like to be able to waive the requirement for people who already have comparable experience. With the condition that they do require the internship, CEP approved the proposal. CEP supports the request to waive the requirement for this given prior training.

CEP awaits a response to the questions they posed regarding the other two certificate proposals discussed last week.

Software Development for Aerospace and Defense Applications: The Committee considered and approved the certification request.

IV. Catalog Topics.

History: CEP discussed the course approval request for what appears to be an examination. It appears to be a vehicle for advising that does not have the academic content expected for course credit. Chair Padgett will write to the department to confirm whether or not there is academic content proposed that was not included in the materials.

Anthropology: Anthropology wants to change their means for assigning honors.

CEP was reminded that faculty need to make the decision to grant honors in time for spring commencements, even if the student may end with a bad grade that term after the decision is made. This is seen as highly unlikely given the performance of the honors recipients up to that point. Additionally, giving honors annually requires that units "retroactively" apply honors for fall and winter quarter graduates—especially when the unit gives honors to a percentage of their top scholars.

If honors are given as described in the proposal, CEP is concerned about creating entitlement for receipt of honors. For example, if an A student has an academic integrity violation would the department want to be required to give honors? What if the high GPA also comes with 3 repeated courses due to Fs? CEP speculated that the department would want to retain the power not to give honors in certain cases such as these described above. The Committee recommends cutting the one sentence regarding “approximately the top 15 percent” or changing “awarded” to “considered for”. A draft response to the department will be circulated by email.

V. Posthumous degree/certificate draft guidelines.

CEP reviewed and discussed draft guidelines for the giving of posthumous degrees and certificates. For the giving of a posthumous degree, the Committee considered the guidelines for UCSB, with one modification:

UC Santa Barbara Bylaw 245.A.4.

Change “had completed at least 24 units in the major” to “had completed 25 units in the major of which at least 15 are at the upper-division level.”

The guidelines were approved as amended.

VI. Academic Integrity.

The discussion regarding academic integrity was carried forward to a future agenda due to a lack of time.

Attest,

Jaye Padgett, Chair
Committee of Educational Policy