

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

MINUTES

March 7, 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), 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.

Chair Padgett announced that a letter went to department chairs regarding this Friday's Senate Meeting and CEP's agenda items for that meeting. The letter also announced that there will be a forum on general education reform during spring quarter. A message will be sent to CEP members requesting schedule availability.

Chair Padgett apprised the Committee of the recent Cab-SEC meeting. Cab-SEC consists of the central administration and Senate Executive Session (SEC) attendees. At that meeting he let the administration know what CEP is planning for the upcoming Senate Meeting with regard to the writing-intensive requirement.

Chair Padgett will send draft questions to the Committee for next week's consultation with divisional deans. The focus will be the writing-intensive requirement and GE reform.

II. Minutes. The February 15 minutes were accepted as amended.

III. W Topics, Senate Meeting Presentation.

CEP discussed the email received from a former CPB Chair raising concerns about the lack of confirmed statistics in the writing-intensive requirement report to be presented at the Senate Meeting. The Committee thinks that his concerns will be addressed through efforts that should occur after ensuring that the Senate wants to foster this requirement. Before a lot of work is put into developing a more detailed funding request and procedural plan, CEP wants to be sure that there is support for such a course of action among the Senators. The Committee is aware that there are more GE problems to be addressed than this requirement. CEP sees this as step one toward GE reform. The W requirement requires the most urgent action given the problem of capacity facing it.

CEP reviewed the draft presentation for the March 9 Senate Meeting and provided feedback. The primary goal of the Resolution is to determine how important this requirement is to the Senators.

Comments of note:

While UCSC may not have a large shortfall of seats for the W requirement when the campus is viewed as a whole, the distribution of seats is creating significant shortages in certain areas. Most of 19 spring quarter 2007 W designated courses still open for enrollment as of today are senior seminars, with prerequisites that only a certain major population are likely to take; or are actually restricted to certain majors.

The Committee discussed writing as a part of the broader intent of this requirement which could be redefined to be disciplinary communication.

CEP acknowledges that there is not a one-size-fits-all answer to what intensive writing in a discipline for undergraduates should be, which is why departmental participation is essential.

The Committee discussed issues for writing preparation leading up to students' fulfilling their W requirement. CEP recognizes that there are likely to be issues with students who barely pass their C requirements. Another notable issue is the apparent diminishing quantity of writing for students in their upper-division curriculum. Writing was described by one member as a complex, gradually-learned skill. Many classes have had to cut writing assignments because of lack of resources to maintain the workload requirements. It appears to the Committee that students are getting less writing between the C and the W requirements than used to be the case.

IV. Catalog Topics

The Committee discussed Sociology's response to CEP's letter regarding their capstone requirement. They do not think that they can offer the seminar course more than once per year. In addition to the honors thesis option and the class, they propose a portfolio synthesis based on 3 courses the student had taken. The option would only be available to those who demonstrate that they cannot take the spring course. CEP would like the portfolio to be more than a review of past work from 3 classes. They suggest some independent reading of faculty papers and one new written response or discussion for the portfolio or attending 3 academic lectures and including a summary of the lectures they attended. A draft response to Sociology regarding their portfolio idea will go by email to members for feedback.

V. Honors.

CEP considered how to prioritize their attention to matters related to honors topics. The following list was created:

1. Campuswide honors at graduation.
2. Something akin to the former Dean's and Chancellor's lists.
3. Honors Programs such as in Majors.

4. Honors Programs campuswide.
5. Department and college honors at graduation.

The Committee was apprised regarding the spring 2004 Report of the Committee on Honors. Representatives from CEP and CAFA served on the Committee. Funding has not been provided to the VPDUE for the plan to be implemented. At the time, the Academic Advisory Council discussed the resource issues. The question was raised as to how to fund such central issues as an honors program when all of the funds are allocated to the units. It was noted that resource allocation methods have since changed to enable some funds to stay central.

VPDUE Ladusaw noted that he now has a staff director to support honors related topics. They are sponsoring Regents Scholar events in order to retain these students. He has a goal of trying to build community among students who want a challenge and may not have an adequate outlet for that at UCSC.

In discussing the list above, CEP found that items numbered 1, 2, and 5 connect together well in review and planning. In addition, these are items the committee feels it can address this year. These items were therefore prioritized more highly by the Committee for further action this year. Items 3 and 4 will remain on a future options list.

The idea was raised of a regular event in conjunction with the Dean's/Chancellor's lists if/when it is reinstated.

It was noted that CEP will work to keep separate the topics of honors for service and honors for academic performance. How academic integrity may affect receipt of honors was also discussed.

VI. Academic Integrity

Continued discussion of academic integrity was carried forward to a future meeting due to lack of time.

Attest,

Jaye Padgett, Chair
Committee of Educational Policy