

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
MINUTES
April 11, 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, Flori Lima, Roxanne Monnet (ASO staff), Loisa Nygaard, Jaye Padgett (Chair), Sarah-Hope Parmeter (NSTF rep), Xinlu (George) Zhang (SUA Rep).

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

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

UC President Dynes was on campus Monday regarding UCSC's search for a chancellor. The Senate Executive Committee met with him. Among President Dynes's comments was his hope the next UCSC chancellor will lead the campus into the Association of American Universities. It was noted in the CEP meeting that the size of our library is a significant hold up and that our library needs American Association Research (AAR) status. There is a move in the UC system for AAR acceptance of all campuses in light of such things as the interlibrary loan program. Chair Padgett expressed the desire that a new chancellor be sensitive to UCSC campus conversations, such as that involving possible tension between our graduate growth targets and our historical emphasis on undergraduate education.

Chair Padgett commented on the meeting of the Committee on Computing and Telecommunications (CCT) that he attended today. The Committee on Teaching was also represented. The Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid was not. The topic of discussion was whether or not to require students to have laptops. Financial Aid implications were discussed as well as the need for technical support for students. The CCT chair will be providing a proposal for Senate committee input. Chair Padgett did not hear a strong pedagogical call for this requirement at present.

II. Minutes. The minutes from March 14 were accepted as amended.

III. W Topics: Draft legislation.

CEP considered a draft legislation change to the writing-intensive (W) requirement, transforming it into a disciplinary communications requirement.

An intentional decision was made not to put into the draft legislation that the departments should be the ones to mount the courses. As long as departmental faculty are involved in determining and assessing what is appropriate for their majors, the courses need not be in their department. CEP will not give up baseline control over what is approved, as a way of maintaining some level of universal consistency.

The Committee restated its support for multiple course sequences such as the ones approved in biology and earth sciences during 2006.

There needs to be further consideration regarding how to implement the new designation (should a legislative change occur) and whether it will be enforced by the department or the Registrar's Office. It was noted that as part of changing the legislation, CEP would need to rewrite its guidelines for the designation.

A subcommittee was formed to further consider the possibility of a disciplinary communications requirement rather than the writing-intensive requirement as it stands today. The Chair for the subcommittee will be Jaye Padgett.

IV. Catalog topics.

SOE overall: On page 3 it was noted that the qualifying Chemistry score now needs to be a 5, not a 4. Other than this correction, SOE's catalog requests were approved. The Committee recommends that they remove the language justifying limits placed on the repeating of courses. They do not think that it needs to be explained in the catalogue text and that it is sufficient to just state the policy. Associate Registrar Claxton will provide SOE with CEP's feedback.

Bioengineering: Concern was expressed over their proposed criteria for honors which will be discussed further during the broader honor topics discussion. CEP plans to give feedback to the programs reviewed today along the following lines: 1) word honors criteria so that students not feel entitled to honors (faculty should reserve the right to deny honors; text such as "at the discretion of the department" or "will be considered for" should be included); clarify the honors scales (no overlaps on GPA numbers). It was noted that this department's proposed honor text is not in line with others seen in the school of engineering.

Bioinformatics: One request of Bioinformatics is to be an honors major. It was noted that UCSC does not have honors majors at this time but that an intensive major is possible. Literature and Psychology have intensive majors. Need to be clear what would appear on the transcript versus the diploma. The Committee would like for intensive majors to build off standard majors so that students could default to the standard major at a future date. The request for an honors major was denied. Chair Padgett will write to the department chair with the committee's feedback. The other aspects of this catalog copy were approved and will go to the subcommittee for a more in-depth review.

Computer Engineering: CEP found CE's proposed catalog changes to be well thought out. The Committee supports the loosening of their admission policy, with the goal of admitting more students. It was noted that double counting of certain courses was listed in the pre-existing catalog copy, a rare occurrence at UCSC. Some concern was expressed regarding the honors section. It was noted that their proposed honor text is not in line with others seen in the school of engineering. The honor portion of the SOE catalog copy will be discussed in conjunction with review of the other SOE responses to honors questions.

Campuswide honors changes are still under discussion and will not be made in time for the next edition of the general catalog.

V. Summer session course requisites.

Director for Summer Session Pat Vani was introduced. She provided a handout to the Committee regarding enrollment restriction changes proposed for Summer Session. It was noted that the list in the document had been confirmed by the departments. CEP was asked for support to lift the enrollment restrictions that are in place during the regular sessions for summer session courses as a default, allowing departments to make specific requests for restrictions. An annual reminder of this default would be in the information that departments receive for proposing summer session courses. Once a department has indicated support to drop their enrollment restrictions on a course that will stand as the future default for the course until a request is made to add restrictions.

With one exception, the members voted yes to support the request to change the default on enrollment restrictions for summer session courses to no restrictions unless departments specifically request them. Summer Session was asked to remind instructors that the non-UCSC students will not necessarily have the same preparation as the UCSC students.

VI. Academic integrity.

This topic was carried forward to a future meeting due to lack of time.

VII. Honors topics.

This topic was carried forward to a future meeting due to lack of time.

Attest,

Jaye Padgett, Chair
Committee of Educational Policy