

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
MINUTES
May 2, 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), George Zhang (SUA Rep).

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

Guests: Bill Ladusaw (VPDUE), Michael McCawley (Associate Director, Admissions).

I. Announcements and Updates.

Chair Jaye Padgett reviewed the recent Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meeting for the Committee. It was noted that the Regents want to restructure the Office of the President to improve business practices. It remains unclear what is happening on the topic of parity related to UC faculty salaries, though there are recent indications that this is becoming a priority at the systemwide level. The cap of the Mortgage Origination Loan Program was raised up to \$1M. UCSC is moving forward to hire an associate vice chancellor for enrollment management.

The Non-Senate Teaching Faculty (NSTF) are interested in have privilege of the floor at Senate meetings for those NSTF who sit as representatives to Senate committees. They would also like to increase the number of committees on which NSTF serve. Before giving its support, SEC wants to see the proposed bylaw changes.

UCSC wants to enable appreciation of purchased campus housing within a certain limit, perhaps 50-60 percent of market value. This would have the advantage of providing those who have already purchased campus housing with a better financial foundation for moving on to other housing. The worry is that such a change will make it more difficult for people to initially buy campus housing, especially those on the waiting list who have been anticipating a certain cost. The idea was suggested to grandfather those who are currently on the waiting list.

CEP members voted in support of the proposed legislative change to the University Extension portion of CEP's charge. The change takes out text related to budget, among other things stated elsewhere in CEP's charge. The proposal will be submitted for the May 30 Senate meeting.

Chair Padgett meets tomorrow with the Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) regarding the status of the writing-intensive requirement. He will explain the plan for a pilot and for individual work with divisions and departments, in order to get CPB's advice and support for the plan, and to get their initial feedback on the legislation being discussed for the fall. He will also request CPB's feedback on the proposed legislation to modify CEP's charge in the area of University Extension. CPB Chair Susan Gillman will attend CEP next week. On May 16 the divisional deans will visit CEP.

The Committee discussed a letter regarding use of University resources for political purposes in the content of courses, and in department- or college-sponsored events. It was noted for the group that, according to the campus attorney, activities of the sort described in the letter do not violate any relevant policies on University involvement in political matters, and there is no requirement that events present balanced points of view. CEP wants the authors of the letter to be referred to the Committee on Academic Freedom as well. Chair Padgett and Senate Chair Faye Crosby will meet with the authors of the letter on Friday.

II. Minutes. Minutes from April 11 accepted as amended.

III. Medical Notes.

The Health Center is seeking CEP feedback before ceasing to issue medical notes to students. The Committee was reminded that the Health Center makes its own policy. Nevertheless, they want Senate input before enacting changes to the present policy.

CEP reviewed the proposal and gave feedback to the CEP designee that has been meeting with the Health Center on the topic. Students visit the Health Center for medical documentation largely for missed exams or late papers. They reportedly go after the fact, specifically for a note and not due to physical issues that they are experiencing at the time. This takes up medical staff time for paperwork and reduces access to those experiencing symptoms needing immediate attention. Students exaggerating symptoms in order to obtain a medical excuse can lead to unnecessary and expensive medical tests.

The Health Center is asking CEP to consider whether these notes are truly beneficial to faculty. These notes often do not constitute proof of illness or of its effect on a student's performance. Most CEP members do not find medical notes to be generally useful to making decisions. By moving to other ways of approaching absences and missed work, the faculty are sending a message that the students are here to learn and to be responsible to themselves for their learning. CEP expressed that students should not be waiting until the last minute to do their papers and projects, and then going to the Health Center because they had a minor illness the night before a deadline and now want an extension. More conversations should be had with the instructors, without a visit to the Health Center for documentation. CEP considered asking the Health Center to give notes upon request only during finals week. CEP discussed the need for medical documentation for late withdrawals (post 6th week). The Health Center will continue to provide documentation for serious illness and injury.

Via a report to the Senate at the May 30 meeting, faculty will be encouraged to find other ways such as through direct conversation with the students to reach their decisions on extensions to complete work. With or without documentation, incomplete grades remain an option that instructors and students may agree upon. In the report a message will be sent to faculty to be clear about their expectations regarding requests for late papers and what kinds of excuses are acceptable. The report will state that the Health Center will not be issuing routine medical notes effective for fall quarter 2007.

The report to the Senate will be circulated one more time via email to CEP for input prior to being submitted for the May 15 Senate Meeting agenda deadline.

The Committee plans to send the report to all faculty with a one page cover letter encouraging them to be careful not to create entitlement and loopholes in their practices regarding absenteeism and missed deadlines or exams.

CEP's published final exam policy mentions "documented illness". Member Nygaard will review the Final Exam Policy to see what changes may be necessary in light of this change in policy by the Student Health Center.

IV. Honors.

The Committee was reminded of where the conversation left off on the honors topics. It was clarified that the topics CEP is discussing relate to academic honors not service honors.

The group discussed the possibility of University honors with Latin terminology and how these might relate to College honors. CEP thinks that it may be redundant to have both College and University honors. They are inclined toward just one of those designations in addition to department honors. Discussions on whether to leave campus level honors with the colleges, whether to shift to Latin terminology, and whether to give the colleges and departments recommended targets and guidelines will continue at a future meeting.

The honors subcommittee will consult with Provost David Jones who participated on the 2004 Honors Taskforce.

V. GSI feedback to survey.

This topic was carried forward due to lack of time.

Attest,

Jaye Padgett, Chair
Committee of Educational Policy