

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
MINUTES
June 6, 2007
12:30-2 p.m., Kerr Hall RM 307

Present: Heather Bullock, Russ Flegal, David Helmbold, Joel Ferguson (Provost Rep), Anatole Leikin, Roxanne Monnet (ASO staff), Loisa Nygaard, Jaye Padgett (Chair), Sarah-Hope Parmeter (NSTF Rep), George Zhang (SUA Rep).

Absent: Pamela Hunt-Carter (Registrar, *ex officio*) and Flori Lima (SUA Rep).

Guests: Margie Claxton (Associate Registrar), Bill Ladusaw (VPDUE), Barbara Love (Articulation Officer), Michael McCawley (Associate Director, Admissions), Stacey Sketo-Rosener (Academic Receptor).

I. Announcements.

Members were asked to meet with the Associate Registrar Claxton regarding final details associated with Catalog copy 2007-08.

The May 30 Senate Meeting was reviewed in brief for the group. CEP's legislative proposal to modify its charge in the area of University Extension passed. A resolution was passed on the floor asking for a report on the financial situation with Unex. The resolution asked for a response as to why CPB's recommendations of the past have not been implemented and what is the plan to correct the continuing \$3-4 Million annual deficit.

A combination meeting of the Chancellor's cabinet and the Senate Executive Committee (Cab-SEC) occurred this week. The Chair of the Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid (CAFA) gave a talk regarding academic preparedness of the incoming first-year students. It appears that UCSC is admitting a higher percentage of less-prepared students based on high school GPA. CAFA is calling for more faculty involvement to aid in recruiting and retaining the top students. The hope for a campus honors programs was discussed and is likely to be a collaborative effort between CEP and CAFA during 2007-08. The current situation with housing for faculty and staff was discussed in particular transitions from one area to another, the availability of larger MOP loans for faculty (up to \$1M), and the efforts to re-index (re-price) homes. The idea is that by raising the prices, we generate funds support low-interest loans for other home purchases by UCSC faculty and staffs.

The Psychology Department wrote a letter to CEP in response to the call for department input regarding the writing-intensive (W) requirement. Chair Padgett met with psychology faculty regarding W possibilities for their majors. They will continue to discuss what sort of proposal to make to CEP for W satisfaction for their students.

Academic integrity was discussed at the Council of Provosts. It is thought that many faculty are unclear about the policies and procedures. Some are not in agreement on what qualifies as academic dishonesty. The Council of Provosts and CEP would like to know why faculty do not

participate. Some speculate that it has to do with myths regarding over- or under-punishing of students. The academic integrity subcommittee will write up a set of proposed actions for CEP to take (along with recommendations for Provosts), for the committee to vote on next week. It was announced that Stacey Sketo-Rosener will be the Coordinator for Academic Advising starting next week, in the VPDUE's office.

II. Minutes. The minutes from May 16, 23, and 30 were accepted as amended.

III. Honors.

The latest handout from the honors subcommittee was discussed.

This summer a letter will go to departments recommending a target of 15 percent of their students to receive honors, with approximately one-third of those receiving highest honors (5 percent of their graduating students). The Committee wants to encourage departments to adhere to these figures without creation of rules to be enforced. CEP would like an annual reminder to go to departments with these recommendations. Units will be asked to consider issues of academic integrity when giving honors. It was noted departments do not necessarily know of academic integrity issues for their students, particularly if the issue occurred before the student declared the major. It was also noted that there is grey area in interpretation of academic integrity and determination of sanctions, so that faculty and departments will need to have discretion in weighing integrity violations for the purposes of determining honors.

CEP discussed whether to weigh differences in grading across divisions and departments when giving University level honors. It was noted that this problem exists at other campuses who give honors akin to the proposal for University honors under consideration. UCSC students will likely be competing with students in similar disciplines who are affected by similar differences in grading which may level the playing field.

CEP voted in support of making the following recommendations for the 2007-08 Committee:

Work with the Council of Provosts to consider how best to communicate academic integrity issues to faculty and departments, especially as related to undeclared students so that departments have the needed information when deciding on honors recipients.

Work with honors-giving units to get their honors criteria into the general catalog for 2008-09.

Work with the Senate to create a new honor's designation called University honors, based on GPA thresholds and using Latin names.

Work with the colleges to keep their honors distinct from University honors.

Next year's committee should consider whether there is sufficient added value to there being both Deans' and Chancellor's list or whether the Deans' list is sufficient. Consider whether part-time students should be eligible for these lists. The proposal sets the units at 12 per quarter which would exclude part-time students.

Work toward a campuswide honor's program.

IV. Topical course articulation draft guidelines.

Chair Padgett apprised CEP of his work with Associate Director for Admissions Michael McCawley and Articulation Officer Barbara Love to create draft guidelines for articulation of courses for the Topical requirement. Comments from that meeting will be provided to CEP prior to the next meeting.

The working group agreed that the T and I designation guidelines should be resolved and implemented prior to other GEs. It was suggested that CEP wait to see whether any significant changes are likely next year to the GE system overall before investing effort in reviewing the articulation for the other GE designations. It became clear to the work group that a large shift has occurred over the past 20 years between the standards first initiated for particular GE designations and current course approval practices for these designations.

V. Conditions for Growth.

CEP discussed the report to the Senate submitted in May by the Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) related to condition for growth at UCSC.

CEP agrees that although it may not be prudent to return to a system of allocation solely based on student enrollment growth, there should be some consideration of enrollments in the distribution of faculty FTE. Some connection of funding to enrollment is important to maintain or improve undergraduate education at UCSC. It was noted that the Teaching Assistant (TA) to undergraduate ratio was not discussed in CPB's report to the Senate. This ratio is of concern to CEP and thought to play a significant part in the effectiveness of undergraduate instruction.

The decrease in undergraduate course offerings is of concern to CEP as is the growing size of classes without added TA resources. The Committee agreed that Chair Padgett should include a reference to the class size data that was made available by the Office of Institutional Research. CEP agreed that UCSC needs to pay attention to enrollments and quality, but not in an overly simplistic way. For example, some subjects can be taught in large lecture courses and some not, such as writing and languages.

CEP would like to underscore the need for increased support services for all students and especially those who may be English Language Learners or who are in need of support in math as mentioned in the fall response by the Committee on Preparatory Education to the draft Strategic Academic Plan and in their May 2007 report to the Senate.

VPDUE Ladusaw encouraged CEP to consider the 6 year graduation rate and the first year retention rate when developing benchmarks for conditions for growth. It was noted that although the 6 year graduation rate is an important benchmark as part of time to degree and retention, it is a lagging indicator of up to 7 years. Focus on the one-year retention rate may be even more valuable toward improving retention because it is a leading indicator, meaning that the data is more timely.

CEP agrees that growth needs to be based on accurate numbers such as filled faculty FTEs not budgeted.

The chair will draft a response to the report, based on these observations, and circulate it by email for feedback.

VI. Strategic Academic Plan.

CEP discussed the latest strategic academic plan (March 2007). The Committee found it to be incomplete. Two or three division plans are not included.

The Committee was informed of the implementation team formed by the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Alison Galloway to meet this summer. Chairs of some Senate committees have been asked to participate, including Chair Padgett. The intent of the meeting is to identify what would need to be done with regard to the principles mentioned in the document. Their ideas for implementation will be vet through the Senate next fall. It is not clear that another, more complete version of the Strategic Academic Plan will go to the Senate for comment.

CEP will respond that they would like to see that the themes mentioned in the strategic document restated as goals. For example, the theme of growing graduate programs could be restated as something like “develop grad programs in a way that would enhance and improve undergraduate education”.

The first four principles in the plan talk about moving funds around differentially. Point three discusses competition. It was suggested in the meeting discussion that this refers to external factors of competition or with other UC campuses and not internal to UCSC. If that is the case, CEP would suggest that the emphasis on competition be replaced to a focus on niches that this campus could fill.

Discussion of the Strategic Academic Plan will continue next week.

So attests,

Jaye Padgett, Chair
Committee of Educational Policy