

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY MINUTES

January 9, 2008

Wednesday, 11:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m., Kerr Hall, Room 307

Present: Jamal Atiba (SUA Rep), Russ Flegal, David Helmbold, Pamela Hunt-Carter (Registrar, ex officio), Roxanne Monnet (ASO Staff), Loisa Nygaard, Jaye Padgett (Chair), Sarah-Hope Parmeter (NSTF), Kip Tellez, Jack Vevea.

Absent: Joel Ferguson (Provost Rep).

Guests: Margie Claxton (Associate Registrar), Elaine Kihara (Academic Preceptor Designee), Bill Ladusaw (VPDUE).

Executive Session from 11:45 a.m.-12 noon.

During Executive Session Members voted to re-invite the standing guests. Members selected dates to attend department meetings to give the GE reform presentation..

I. Announcements and updates.

CEP enthusiastically re-invited the following guests for winter quarter: Margie Claxton (Associate Registrar for Publications and Scheduling), Elaine Kihara (Academic Preceptor designee), Bill Ladusaw (VPDUE and Dean of Summer Session), Barbara Love (Articulation Officer), and Michael McCawley (Acting Director of Admissions).

Chair Padgett updated the committee regarding student representative participation in faculty FTE transfer discussions. The SUA Reps to CEP, CPB, and GC may particulate fully and review all documentation received by the Senate for these reviews.

The meeting with Chancellor Blumenthal and CP/EVC Klinger will be postponed to a later date in order for it to occur after CEP has made more progress on the writing-intensive requirement proposals.

The Committee was apprised regarding the Transfer Preparation Pathways as one way that UC endeavors to make it easier for community college transfer students to plan their major. The following topical areas have already been reviewed and approved: business, psychology, economics, biology, history, chemistry, and physics. Anthropology is currently under review and another 19 will be reviewed this year.

The task force on retention recently met. This first meeting was primarily anecdotal discussion regarding why retention may not be working as well as desired at UCSC.

Cab-SEC met recently. They discussed the state budget. Significant cuts are anticipated including no new faculty FTE for next year. CP/EVC Klinger is considering strategic senior hires as a new approach to launching new programs or moving others to excellence. Cluster hiring (hire an excellent senior faculty member with promise of assistant professor positions to follow) is being considered for the near-term, possible next year. Cab-SEC received an update regarding the planned NASA Research Park at

Ames. UCSC plans to partner with NASA-Ames and possibly CSU Santa Clara, Carnegie-Melon, and Stanford. A limited-liability corporation would be formed with a developer who would be contracted to pay the costs to develop the research park and oversee the initial leases to cover that cost. However, there is a new law that may discourage such partnerships that takes effective in 2009, with negative implications on the interactions between business and government.

Registrar Hunt-Carter is participating on the systemwide Religious Observance Calendar Committee as UCSC's representative.

II. Minutes. The December 5, 2007, minutes were accepted as amended.

III. External Review Response to review Documents.

Environmental Toxicology: The Environmental Toxicology Department does not have an undergraduate degree program; nonetheless the Physical and Biological Sciences Division is developing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Departments of Environmental Toxicology (ETOX) and Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology (MCDB) to shift instruction of microbial courses from MCDB to ETOX. Both departments support the idea of shifting these courses over to ETOX. The courses in question are heavily subscribed (hundreds of students per class). CEP will respond in writing that the Committee wants the situation regarding these courses to be resolved since from the external review report it seems there are issues affecting students that remain unresolved. A draft letter will be considered at next week's meeting.

Writing Program: Following general discussion, NSTF Rep Sarah Hope-Parmeter recused herself for the rest of the discussion.

This review is another high appraisal of our Writing Program although it was noted that with the reduction of writing support they do not stand out nationally as they had at the time of the last review. Funding for the functions of the Writing Program remains the largest problem that arose in this review. Especially noted is the lose of support for Writing Across the Curriculum, free peer tutoring, and the insufficient number of permanent faculty (including SOE lecturers).

A Memorandum Of Understanding is being developed with regarding to lower-division writing curriculum. It includes formulaic allocations based on the number of entering frosh and the rate of non-pass of the Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR). The MOU discussed formalized involvement of graduate students to teach some of the first-year courses. By involving graduate students, the program can improve the faculty workload. The Writing Program is in favor of the MOU.

Since the last review of the Writing Program, the Journalism and Composition and Rhetoric minor where both basically killed. Writing-across-the-curriculum funding was not reallocated (the one-time funds ran out and were not replaced). Broad funding for the tutoring of non-EOP students also disappeared.

For Writing tutoring, UCSC has a blended system as of this year. It is partially funded by student fees. EOP pays the balance of the cost for EOP students. The VPDUE Office pays the balance for non-EOP students. The tutoring was one-one-one in the past. Now there are group meetings once weekly and one-on-one is an option only in exceptional situations.

The Central California Writing Project moved out of the Writing Program. CEP learned that the Education Department has taken it on recently.

It was noted that the External Review Committee (ERC) did not meet with undergraduates. They did meet with instructor of CORE sections focused on students needing to satisfy ELWR and instructors of C1 and C2 classes. It was discussed whether the Writing Program should move toward becoming a department, in which case ladder-rank faculty would be the norm rather than SOE lecturers. The Writing Program likes the current model since SOE lecturers do not have research requirements and can focus on the teaching mission.

CEP applauds the strong working relationship that exists between SOE and non-SOE faculty in the Writing Program. They would like to see better coordination between the college core courses and Writing Program. The Committee would like to see the writing assistant program and the Writing-Across-the-Curriculum efforts to be restored, and wants more funding for tutoring. CEP supports the recent hiring of additional staff. CEP would like for the Writing Program to be involved as the writing-intensive requirement is reconsidered.

The Council of Provosts is discussing the core course system. It is a difficult challenge to manage the impact of student population growth (and change) and the consequences of trying to meet so many goals in a single course. The provosts are looking at the challenges of holding all ELWR and all C1 and C2 core sections in the fall quarter. Adding to the challenges is the difficulty in finding enough qualified lecturers for only one quarter, making it hard to hold onto these employees. CEP wants the core course and Writing Program funding to be in harmony with the needs of the students. The provosts will discuss the curriculum and timelines (what should happen when). Efforts should be made to integrate the hiring for the Writing Program and for the core courses, and to rethink whether one course can do all that it is currently expected to do.

A draft will be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

IV. GE Reform: department presentation.

CEP reviewed the draft presentation for use when meeting with departments this quarter. The documents will be in PDF format. Members will bring their laptops pre-loaded with the presentation. The finalized presentation will be sent to CEP members by Saturday.

So attests,

Jaye Padgett, Chair
Committee on Educational Policy