

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY MINUTES

**January 16, 2008
Wednesday, 11:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m., Kerr Hall, Room 307**

Present: Joel Ferguson (Provost 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: Jamal Atiba (SUA Rep).

Guests: Elaine Kihara (Academic Preceptor Designee), Bill Ladusaw (VPDUE), Michael McCawley (Acting Director, Admissions), Marlene Robinson (Awards and Honors Coordinator, VPDUE Office).

I. Announcements and updates.

Chair Padgett reviewed the recent Senate Executive Committee (SEC) for CEP. They discussed the projected budget cuts for 2008-09 which could be 10 percent for the UC system or \$322M. It is not known whether this could affect decisions around UC enrollment targets or student fee increases. The UC compact with the State Legislature holds fee increases to a maximum of 10 percent per year. It is not known whether a budget cut will affect the multi-year faculty salary plan or what the implications will be to faculty hiring. While a hiring freeze is not yet planned, nothing has been ruled out. It seems that the new faculty salary scales may not be having the effect that it was hoped they would have (to curtail use of offscale), since campuses have a lot of latitude in how they respond to the change. With regard to the tree sitters, UCSC began citing people over the break between fall and winter quarters. The tree sitters are viewed as creating a public hazard. Some of those arrested were charged with aiding and abetting. There is now a constant security presence around the trees. On the topic of National Labs, the Federal government plans to significantly ramp up PIT production. Los Alamos National Laboratory may be the primary location nationally for production of these war heads. This is of concern to some faculty because UC is in an asymmetrical contract with the federal government, and could conceivably be locked into that contract for about 20 years.

Committee members signed up for visits to department faculty meetings to discuss general education reform.

II. Minutes. The December 12, 2007, minutes were accepted as amended.

III. External Review Response to review Documents.

CEP discussed this year's issues with External Review Committees (ERC) not addressing questions. At a future meeting CEP will discuss the process, how to prevent future disconnects between the ERC and undergraduate missions, and involvement of Institutional Research in the self-study stage more deeply than has been the case. CEP will also consider adding a question to the self-studies addressing individual teaching workload issues.

Environmental Toxicology: After discussing the external review closure meeting for Environmental Toxicology, CEP decided to write an addendum to its last letter regarding this review. A draft letter was considered and accepted. It will be sent to the same people who received CEP's last letter, and a request will be made that it be added to Planning and Budget documents on the web site used for these reviews.

Anthropology: It was discussed in the meeting that the ERC did not answer CEP's questions. The dean did mention the undergraduate mission to the ERC and is willing to contact the ERC to do what they can to address those questions. CEP is not sure how the ERC could address them now since the questions were not addressed while they were here. The undergraduate program director's meeting with the ERC was not fruitful. The department does not want to revisit the dismantling of their intensive majors due, in part, to student concern that they would not get into graduate school if they did not do the intensive major. The department, with the support of Institutional Research, will survey the students. CEP will request the results and check in with the VPAA regarding a time line, perhaps the 18 month check in. Two very large workload courses are causing a lower-division teaching burden on a subset of the faculty. One area of the department is down to just two faculty members being responsible for certain large courses.

Philosophy: The ERC report addressed all aspects of the program. The issue of retention of assistant professors was discussed, as was the declining diversity of the department. The ERC did not address CEP's questions regarding undergraduate advising, TA training, or the exit requirement. It was noted that the department has changed research direction significantly since the last review and is working to reorient and re-stabilize itself toward the philosophy of science and social science. The report addressed department discord and issues with communication. The department plans to have more formal discussions in regular faculty meetings and to institute subcommittees as appropriate. The department lost one high-level faculty FTE who became a divisional appointment. The ERC report was frank about the impact to the undergraduate program due to institution of a graduate program. The ERC gave their recommendations on how to maintain the quality of the upper-division curriculum by moving toward more large-lecture courses at the lower-division level. While there seems to be a large workload for this department compared with other philosophy programs around the country, it does not appear to be high within the context of UCSC or UC. It was recommended that the department strengthen the prerequisite structures within their curriculum for pedagogical reasons and population control. CEP does not support increased requisites merely for the reason to shrink the major. Although the department is having difficulties at every level, it is clear from their response that they are trying to address all points responsibly. They are also considering satisfaction of the writing-intensive requirement for their majors by adding a couple of upper-division courses and are working with CEP related to this. CEP applauds the department's speedy work on the topics raised in this review.

IV. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on International Education.

Discussion of the report by the Ad Hoc Committee on International Ed was carried forward.

V. GE meeting debriefings.

Members reported back on their general education meetings with departments over the past week. Feedback included encouragement to involve students at this early stage, the desire for a detailed proposal to consider, an interest to better understand what was last considered and the possible reasons

for why it failed, and support for a foreign language requirement. Departments expressed concern regarding funding for any change and a strong desire to rebuild writing instruction. Positive feedback was given related to the Duke model. One department expressed support for the idea of a “mini minor” such as in the area of language (with a focus outside of one’s major).

Members were asked to take notes in order for CEP to write some sort of report on the feedback received. Information related to the last significant effort to modify general education at UCSC will be added to the presentation.

Historic information on past general education attempts will be added to the Committees working web site, including relevant past Senate meeting minutes and the 1998 legislation which passed at the meeting and later failed in the mail ballot vote by a very close margin.

VI. Honors GPA thresholds.

Dean's List: CEP considered data regarding honors given in the last two years by colleges and departments. It was noted that summer data looked quite different, perhaps because more students would not have met the 10 unit minimum to be counted toward honors. CEP considered whether to determine thresholds based on the past one year or two years. The Committee decided to be consistent with Latin Honors since so little difference is apparent from the data provided for consideration today. They also decided that there would be a summer Dean's List.

The Committee was reminded that students may be on the Dean's List and still not graduate with Latin honors since the Dean's List is decided quarterly and the Latin designations are for their career in full.

Latin Honors Designations: To determine the calculation for GPA cut-offs for Latin Honor's Designations, CEP looked at GPA statistics for the current term, one full year previous, and two full years previous to consider calculation cut-offs. The Committee found very little distinction between the one- and two-year data. The group discussed whether to include summer and decided to include the lead summer along with the fall, winter, spring quarters of the year prior to determine the GPA thresholds as described within the Honors Regulations. They found that use of one year is a straightforward benchmark that would be useful in considering other things such as grade inflation.

Having decided to use the same time frame for both Latin Honors and Dean's List, CEP decided that both would be based on the previous year's statistics. Dean's List and Latin Honor at graduation will be effective fall 2008.

So attests,

Jaye Padgett, Chair
Committee on Educational Policy