

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY MINUTES

January 30, 2008

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

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

Absent: Joel Ferguson (Provost Rep), Pamela Hunt-Carter (Registrar, ex officio),

Guests: Margie Claxton (Associate Registrar), Elaine Kihara (Academic Preceptor Designee), Bill Ladusaw (VPDUE), Michael McCawley (Acting Director of Admissions).

I. Announcements and updates.

CEP was informed of the opportunity to conduct opinion polls via the annual student election process. The Committee decided that they would like to use this opportunity to hear from students regarding general education reform. CEP will consider other ways to reach out to the student population as well as attending the individual college government meetings. SUA Rep Atiba will collect meeting logistical information for Chair Padgett who will also attend a Council of Provosts meeting and a meeting of the college academic preceptors. The Committee discussed the timeline for general education legislation and agreed that May would be the soonest that legislation could be ready but most likely it would be on a Senate agenda during next fall quarter.

Chair Padgett has met twice with Assistant Chancellor Ashish Sahni and Campus Sustainability Coordinator Aurora Winslade on the topic of a sustainability related course requirement. Sahni and Winslade would like there to be a Minor in sustainability at UCSC. Chair Padgett asked CEP what they thought about adding a question to the department GE presentation regarding sustainability. Members indicated that while it does not substitute for improved academic quality as a goal in GE reform, it is an important topic with significant student interest. CEP does not think that a sustainability requirement should receive funds in lieu of other academic needs. It was noted that a course requirement in this area could be so narrow that it might have imbalanced resource implications to certain areas of campus.

Members gave feedback from the GE department meetings that occurred since the last CEP meeting. Departments agree with CEP that the GE requirements need to be re-evaluated. Departments expressed concern that CEP's projected timeline for the project may be too short and that funding needs to be in place so that unfunded requirements are not created. Additionally, departments would like something more concrete to which to respond. CEP plans to write to departments with a copy of the presentation that was used at the meetings and invite their written response.

CEP will invite the Chair of the Committee on Teaching and the Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence to an upcoming meeting to discuss the instructional improvement grant program, particularly opportunities with a connection to the general education requirement changes.

Chair Padgett reported on the recent Cab-SEC meeting at which the state's budget situation was discussed, in particular the proposal to cut state funding to UC after the compact agreement is funded. It

is possible that there would be a cut in enrollments along with a cut in state funding. A court order is expected early in February that would order the people out of the trees on science hill. Issues associated with the Regents' higher level of involvement in day to day University operations was discussed at Cab-SEC, following up on a special WASC report that addressed this issue and other systemwide governance issues.

UCSC's Regents Scholars Program received a one-time additional allocation of \$250K. In the future, the funds will be allocated to the Scholars over their years at UCSC rather than all up front. Satisfactory academic progress will be monitored along the way and annual funding may be drawn back for scholars who do not maintain minimum performance goals.

Acting Director of Admissions Michael McCawley apprised CEP of the very high rate of applications received overall and especially for under-represented groups of students. There was a 28.1 percent increase in applications from the African American population, 16.9 percent for American Indians, 24.8 percent Chicano/Latino, and 10.1 percent Asian. Unfortunately, as recently announced to the press by UC Provost and Executive Vice President Rory Hume, UC may not be able to accommodate all UC eligible students due to budget cuts.

II. Minutes. The January 9, 2008, minutes were accepted as amended.

III. International Education Ad Hoc Report.

Another version of the draft response to the Ad Hoc Report on International Education will go to CEP members tomorrow. Members need to respond to it immediately.

IV. GE Reform: Disciplinary Communication

CEP was reminded that in the past satisfaction of the writing-intensive (W) requirement was attached to a class. The Committee speculated that it may not be helpful to monitor it in that way if the requirement becomes fully incorporated into a department's Major curriculum. This might result in a challenge to enforce that the C1/C2 requirements be satisfied prior to students satisfying their W requirement; but this challenge could be addressed by requiring the W objectives to be satisfied in the upper division curriculum of a major. The Committee brainstormed on possible ways of monitoring W satisfaction without its being attached to a particular course. For example, if the W were handled like other capstone requirements, would substitutions and waivers be at the department's discretion as is the case for major requirements? Would those majors that are certified as writing-intensive majors--if that sort of system is adopted--need to confirm on the graduation checklist how each student's W was satisfied, which would cause a workload impact across campus? Could CEP confidently leave enforcement of the W to the certified departments since they are the ones expressing and defining what they want for their students?

One idea that CEP will consider further on the matter of certifying Majors as writing-intensive is to ask each department with an undergraduate Major to write a disciplinary communication statement that lays out educational objectives and explains how they are met in the curriculum. After initial review CEP would regularly review each disciplinary communication statement--perhaps every three years--along with the courses on which their statement is based. CEP might also require a list of all department decisions to waive the writing-intensive requirement at that time. Members expressed concern regarding department follow through in those cases when the W would not be attached to a designated course and acknowledged that the quality of courses cannot be completely enforced, demonstrating the importance

of regular review of all GE designated courses. Members commented that the culture needs to change overtime from a focus on number of pages (or words) toward instruction in writing and sequencing of assignments in a scaffolded manner across multiple courses.

V. External Review: Community Studies

CEP found the Community Studies external review to be a positive review in many regards. Nonetheless, CEP's questions were basically not answered.

The External Review Committee (ERC) was very critical about the field studies component. The department does not agree with their assessment. CEP wonders whether there is a lack of structure or sufficient organization, enough faculty supervision, or sufficient student accountability, and whether the course that prepares them for the field study is doing its job. The dean's letter also expressed concern regarding the rigor of the field study. Students received as much as 15 credits of academic credit. Students need to be well-prepared prior to going into internships and mentored throughout. Their performance needs to be monitored during the experience. Without these elements, the service learning experience may not be properly managed and may result in a negative experience for the student as well as a reduced community reputation for UCSC. CEP would like to ask the department to rethink the internship program, and to specifically ask them to address the level of faculty supervision. Perhaps the department could demonstrate why they believe their current practice is effective. CEP wonders whether the feedback could be provided by the 18 month check-in.

The ERC expressed concern that the summer session independent studies may be having a negative affect on the diversity of the program. In part this may be due to the fact that many students cannot give up a salary earning quarter in order to participate in an internship.

VPDUE Ladusaw suggested that there be a review of internship programs in the form of a campuswide conversation.

VI. Catalog Reviews.

CEP was informed that the ISM Minor proposal requires more info before CEP makes its decision. The proposal indicates that there would be less than the required 25 upper-division units and that there would be some overlap of courses with certain Majors. A justification was not given for either nor was a specific request made as to how many courses would be double counted.

So attests,

Jaye Padgett, Chair
Committee on Educational Policy