

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
MINUTES**

April 23, 2008

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

Present: Larissa Adams (SUA Rep), Russ Flegal, David Helmbold, Pamela Hunt-Carter (Registrar, ex officio), Roxanne Monnet (ASO Staff), Loisa Nygaard, Jaye Padgett (Chair), Joel Ferguson (Provost Rep), Kip Tellez, Jack Vevea.

Absent: Jamal Atiba (SUA Rep), Joel Ferguson (Provost Rep).

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

I. Announcements and updates.

The Committee on Rules, Jurisdiction, and Elections reviewed the draft legislation submitted by CEP to modify SCR 10.4 and suggested some minor changes which will be discussed next week.

The April 30 Senate Meeting was cancelled.

CEP confirmed that the draft letter regarding common calendar dates was ready as is for sending to the Registrar.

II. Minutes. March 5, 12, and 19 minutes were accepted as amended.

III. Catalog topics.

Education: In follow up to a previous meeting, CEP considered a draft response to the Education Department regarding their proposed and current Minor programs, specifically the need for 25 upper-division (UD) credits. The letter was approved for sending.

Biology: CEP discussed the request to change the department of oversight of certain biology Major programs. Oversight of the Health Sciences B.S. would move from joint oversight to the Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology (MCDB) Department, oversight of the Neuroscience and Behavior B.A. and B.S. would move from joint oversight to MCDB; and oversight of the Plant Sciences B.S. would move from joint oversight to the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (EEB) Department. No change in oversight of the other majors was proposed. The Biology B.A. and B.S. would remain under joint oversight; the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology B.S. under EEB oversight; the Marine Biology B.S. under EEB oversight; and the Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology B.S. under MCDB oversight. CEP supported the request.

Disqualification policy: CEP discussed the policy on file related to disqualification of Majors, intended, in part, to ensure that students take majors appropriate to their abilities with the goal of identifying the need to change majors as early as possible for students. It was noted that most

departments do not have disqualification of major policies in the general catalog. CEP will recommend that all departments have procedures in place to catch students early, recognizing that it is unavoidable that some students will learn late in their degree that they are not making satisfactory progress toward that degree program. CEP prefers that the courses listed in disqualification policies be ones that are generally taken in the first and second years. At a future meeting CEP will finalize a revision to their disqualification policy.

Chemistry: CEP approved Chemistry's request for a disqualification policy as described in their proposal but will ask them to consider two possible changes. CEP will ask whether they would like W grades (withdraws) to be included in the policy. It was noted that although organic chemistry is at the upper-division level, these courses are typically taken early, usually during the sophomore year. CEP will ask the department to consider renumbering these courses to the lower-division level.

Linguistics: CEP approved Linguistics' request for a disqualification policy as described in their proposal and will also ask whether they would like W grades (withdraws) to be included in the policy. Concern was expressed about inclusion of the senior seminar, Linguistics 190. Although CEP trusts the department's judgment regarding the course list, CEP will ask them to reconsider inclusion of Linguistics 190. The department will also be asked to provide more detailed text on their policy for inclusion in the catalog.

Math: The disqualification policy proposed by Math is focused on UD courses and does not appear to look at disqualifying students before the upper-division. It was noted that math theory is a topic that students do not begin until the UD curriculum. CEP will encourage Math to add lower-division (LD) courses to the list as a way of identifying students early. This proposal differs from the other two discussed above in that students will be "subject to disqualification" after which all cases are reviewed. For the other proposals students will automatically be disqualified and provided with an after-the-fact appeal process. Math could propose that certain LD courses lead to automatic disqualification, leaving the UD courses as subject to being disqualified. In the letter to Math, CEP will mention the legislation being put forward at the May Meeting which will require that all Major programs have a minimum of 40 UD credits and that, if it passes, Math will be asked to modify their degree requirements to bring them into compliance with this minimum.

IV. GE Reform.

Chair Padgett provided talking points to guide the discussion intended to eventually form a pre-proposal to be presented at the May 30 Senate Meeting.

CEP agreed on certain assumptions: some breadth will stay, distributional general education will remain to some degree and ways of learning, course clusters, and skills (framed new ways) will be folded into the plan.

The group acknowledged the need to take care on the topic of diversity. The principle has support based on feedback from recent department meetings but how the language is framed is important to achieving the goal of the requirement.

CEP discussed the concept of Breadth and how it may or may not be different from the current designations of Introductory courses and Topical courses. They agree that breadth courses need not lead into a particular major.

Members supported the goal that certain GE courses should complete discussion of a topic at the level of a general audience. When courses are designed for non-majors there is less of a tendency to throw things at students that “we’ll do in the next course.” For example, Astronomy for Poets would not fit with our current definition of an Introductory course, nor does it fit with the profile of a Topical course. It does address a particular topic but with a sense of completeness.

V. Community Studies External Review Closure Meeting discussion.

The recent Community Studies external review closure meeting was discussed. The divisional dean and external review committee were in agreement with CEP in their concern regarding lack of oversight of the field experience. Most Community Studies majors do a full summer load of field experience. Concern about lack of availability of faculty to answer questions was expressed. The dean listed his specific concerns and expectations. He will look at the structure and oversight of the field program. The department was asked to develop educational objectives for it. The closure letter will ask that the requests regarding the field program be addressed by the 18 month review. Other topics were discussed that were outside of the scope of CEP’s expressed concerns.

VI. Two Pass Enrollment Update.

The University Registrar apprised CEP of the results of the recent two-pass course enrollment pilot program. All frosh, sophomores, and juniors were allowed to enroll in 14 credits on their first pass. The amount was determined to allow for two courses plus associated lab sections. On the second pass these students were enabled to enroll in up to 19 credits. Seniors and some other categories of students such as Regents Scholars were allowed to enroll in up to 19 credits on their first pass.

Some juniors gave negative feedback about losing the higher priority that juniors used to have over sophomores and frosh. Some students were confused by the chart which gave details on how the new system would work. Clarifying changes have since been made to the chart. The advising community gave uniformly positive feedback to the new system.

A formal student survey will be conducted after students complete their first pass for fall 2008 enrollment.

A similar plan was proposed by the Registrar for fall enrollment with the added allowance that new students may enroll in up to 19 credits. This allowance is intended to reduce confusion for first time users of UCSC’s enrollment system. Enrollment will be closed to juniors and continuing students at a point during the summer to allow new students to find room in classes.

Although the new system does not address capacity issues where they exist in the curriculum, CEP concluded that it appears to have improved distribution of available classroom seats among

the students. The Registrar will also consider whether a wait list can be in place for spring quarter 2009.

CEP gave support to making the two-pass enrollment system the on-going method for course enrollment.

So attests,

Jaye Padgett, Chair
Committee on Educational Policy