

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY  
MINUTES**

**October 31, 2007**

**Wednesday, 11:45-1:45 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: Margie Claxton (Associate Registrar), Elaine Kihara (Academic Preceptor Designee), Bill Ladusaw (VPDUE), Michael McCawley (Acting Director of Admissions), Marlene Robinson (Awards and Honors Coordinator, VPDUE Office).

**I. Announcements.**

The Committee on Rules, Jurisdiction, and Elections found CEP's proposal to modify the honors legislation (Regulations Chapter 11) to be clearly stated and not in conflict with local or systemwide legislation.

The Committee on Committees indicated that CEP may act independently to find a guest faculty consultant from the Arts Division as CEP thinks necessary this year. COC did not accept the request to find a person to work with CEP.

CEP Chair Padgett gave an overview to the Committee regarding the recent Senate Executive Committee meeting. UC President Dynes will visit UCSC tomorrow. Senate committee members are invited to meet with him from 4:30-5:30 at the University Center, Alumni Room. Child Care Services on campus is on probation for not reporting issues over the past few years. The Committee on Academic Personnel (CAP) aired a proposal regarding a problem that arose with faculty salaries related to this year's Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) plans for this and the next two years. All faculty received a COLA effective October 1. One goal of this COLA is to bring more people back on-scale. Although everyone is getting a COLA, it may be perceived as a downward adjustment for faculty who were off-scale and got moved on-scale, regardless of there being an increase in salary. Since these COLA shifts will happen for three consecutive years, the proposal is to not have this "downward" shift from off-scale to on-scale happen to the same people more than once. Instead, the proposal indicates that the person would move to the next step. For CAP's proposal to go beyond being just a proposal, the administration has to support it.

CEP considered a petition regarding a student returning after a ten year break to complete requirements to graduate. Errors were made in advising documents for the student leaving her unaware until recently that she still lacks one GE requirement. CEP members discussed a couple of her transfer courses and whether to allow both Introduction to Social Sciences courses in the

same department for this student. Members will review the documentation of this petition in more depth and send their responses to the CEP Chair this week.

An issue raised that warrants future discussion is how CEP should respond when the error was in the advising process. The Committee wants to be sure that students are aware that they are personally responsible to have met their requirements. It was noted that for students who started in or later than 2004, the on-line degree audit will probably catch things such as this problem where one transferred course could not count in satisfaction of a GE because the student earned a grade of D.

**II. Minutes.** None for consideration this week.

**III. General Education Reform.**

Chair Padgett informed the committee that the Senate staff are working on collecting data on GE systems for the other UCs with undergraduate programs. In addition to having the data gathered on the UC GE systems, Chair Padgett asked the group to send him names of other institutions on which to gather like data.

A compilation of Committee responses regarding goals and objectives for GE reform was provided to the group by Chair Padgett. Non-respondents were encouraged to give their input in the next couple of days. Members were asked to think about being on a GE subcommittee and to respond to Chair Padgett in the next couple of days. One task for the subcommittee would be to take these comments and consider next steps.

Chair Padgett laid out for discussion the possibility of a three part talk for visiting departments during winter quarter. Part one would look at how things are now and make clear why UCSC needs to assess and probably reform its general education requirements. Parts two and three would discuss the educational objectives of general education and ways to accomplish those objectives.

The suggestion was made for the talk to distinguish between goals and strategies. For example, a goal would be taking what the faculty want students to be able to do or know, and assigning as few courses to meet those objectives as possible. Use of course clusters to achieve the objectives would be a strategy.

**VI. External Review Draft Charges.**

**Astronomy and Astrophysics:** This department offers a minor and actively participates in a major sponsored by the Physics Department. Astronomy and Astrophysics enabled 40 percent of UCSC students to fulfill their Quantitative requirement, providing a very significant service through their courses. One general question regarding undergraduate education will be recommended for addition to the review charge, since none appear in the draft charge for this department.

**Computer Science:** CEP is recommending that a question be added regarding writing akin to “Are the majors’ oral and writing communication skills being adequately developed?” The Committee plans to add a question similar to this to all departments with majors unless writing for their majors was specifically addressed in the self study. In the last review CEP asked that undergraduates be given an opportunity to provide feedback on their undergraduate learning experiences, particularly to the introductory courses. This does not appear to have been addressed in the self-study or draft charge. A question will be added regarding early undergraduate advising. The enrollment numbers in the self-study seem inconsistent with regard to the game design major enrollments. The initial projection was for 30-40 students per year when in fact 150 are already demonstrating an interest in that major, based on the information provided. CEP wonders whether there is a mismatch between demand and resources. A question will be added regarding the department’s ability to support this major if it gets large. A draft letter will be circulated by email for CEP confirmation.

**Information Science Management:** As mentioned above, a question will be added regarding writing for the major. The ISM Program split off from Computer Sciences in about 2002. ISM plans to eventually seek department status. They are proposing a graduate program. Fluctuating enrollment was noted over the last 3 years. The 2004 student survey indicated student dissatisfaction, CEP wonders whether this has been addressed and whether the decline in enrollments is due to an industry dip or other problems. It appears that most courses for the ISM major are taught by a single lecturer. The Committee expressed concern regarding what appears to be low faculty interest. CEP would like to ask the external review committee what faculty specializations are needed for the major and whether those are being met. A draft letter will be circulated by email for CEP confirmation.

**Literature:** Discussion of the literature draft charge was carried forward due to lack of time.

## **V. Honors Program.**

VPDUE Ladusaw facilitated CEP’s discussion on the topic of an honors program for continuing students based on the handout first provided at the September 26 CEP meeting. First he framed the idea of looking at year-one performance to decide who would be invited to apply for an honors program in their second year. The intention would be to accept all who apply and meet minimum thresholds which are yet to be defined.

The group discussed ways that invitation and acceptance could work for the honors program. Members expressed the desire to find a way for students with different backgrounds to be fully considered, such as those who may not have come from the top high schools. An interest was expressed for students to have a second round of eligibility such as after year two. The question was raised as to whether the use of the first-year coursework would discourage some students from taking challenging courses in that year. Thoughts were aired regarding GPA minimum, core course instructor recommendations, possible use of a percentile of top course achievers, GPA normalization, consideration of challenge level of courses taken in year one.

The importance of first designing the program and then looking at how best to get students into it was emphasized.

One challenge for a successful honors program will be how to package it in such a way that it gets the students in and remains attractive to the faculty who will teach the courses. An idea expressed was for the honors program to start with small classes for students to work closely with faculty after which the next step would be high-level rigorous courses. These courses would not be limited to honors program members but would have a notation that they can be used for the honors program.

CEP strongly supports there being an academic honors program at UCSC and looks forward to continued work with the VPDUE toward establishment of one. CEP invited VPDUE Ladusaw to find an example honors program for CEP to consider.

#### **VI. Preparation for upcoming Senate Meeting re Honors.**

This topic was carried forward due to lack of time.

So attests,

Jaye Padgett, Chair  
Committee on Educational Policy