

# COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY MINUTES

**November 14, 2007**  
**Wednesday, 11:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m., Kerr Hall, Room 307**

Present: Joel Ferguson (Provost Rep), 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), Russ Flegal.

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

## **I. Announcements and updates.**

The group was informed that the proposed Honors legislation passed last Friday. It will be effective September 1, 2007.

Members Helmbold, Tellez, and Vevea have volunteered to work on CEP's GE subcommittee. In addition to general education information from the other UC campuses, members discussed whether to collect information on some non-UC schools. They selected Dartmouth and Pomona College.

The Committee was informed that the feedback received to the petition discussed last week was in support of allowing that both IS courses be related to topics in the same department (transfer coursework).

Chair Padgett met with the Art Department regarding a writing-intensive proposal. Although the Art faculty are greatly worried about resources to support a W designated course, they sound willing to make a proposal.

The Taskforce on Retention recently had its first meeting. CEP will be kept apprised of these meetings.

Chair Padgett updated CEP regarding yesterday's Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meeting. The search is underway for the next UC president. Senate input to the search goes through the systemwide Academic Advisory Council (AAC), chaired by Academic Senate Chair Michael Brown. Professor Peggy Delaney is the UCSC representative to the AAC. She visited SEC and expressed concern over the lack of faculty input to the search thus far. She is seeking input from the Senate committees to the following question: What are the top 3 jobs for the UC president and top 3 traits that the next president should have? CEP was invited to give feedback to Chair Padgett who represents CEP opinions at SEC. A status report was given related to the tree sitters on science hill. Their basic demands (stop the LRDP and abandon the plan for a biomedical sciences building) cannot be supported by the administration. SEC received an update regarding faculty salaries. UC Berkeley recently decided that they will give faculty the off-scale salaries

that they currently have above the new scales. They also plan to bump faculty salaries up to the next step for those close to it.

**II. Minutes.** The minutes from October 24 were accepted as amended.

**III. External Review Response to review Documents.**

**HAVC:** It was noted that HAVC's previous review was somewhat problematic and that the current review was very positive by comparison, particularly with regard to the undergraduate program. The department and External Review Committee (ERC) agreed that it will be difficult to create a graduate program while maintaining their commitment to undergraduates. The ERC recommended reducing their number of course offerings and the number of courses for the major in order to have the resources to grow a graduate program. Positive comments were made in the review documents regarding the department's attention to undergraduate writing in courses for majors. . Early access to small seminars was a problem students noted. The ERC wants them to correct the somewhat Byzantine numbering system for their courses. The review showed that 53.2 percent of HAVC's GE courses were taught by non-Senate faculty. The department is already being proactive in responding to the review committee recommendations. Some issues raised by CEP in the last review do not seem addressed in the review reports. Only two of four questions from CEP's fall 2006 response to the draft charge were addressed. CEP would like to have answers to the other two questions. The Committee supports the points made in the discussion. A draft letter will be circulated within a week.

Two significant problems of note include poorly equipped classrooms and issues with digitizing images. CEP will continue discussion on the topic of classroom equipment at a future meeting.

**External Review Draft Charges.**

**Sociology:** A draft letter was circulated. Two questions from the last review were not answered, one of which related to their heavy reliance on undergraduates to run sections. The Committee supported the points made in the response to the draft charge. The letter will be circulated via email for confirmation.

**Theater Arts:** The two previous reviews for the Department of Theater Arts had significant concerns. It does not appear that these have been resolved in this review period. Collegiality of the faculty is one of the issues. The negative comments regarding the cohesiveness of the curriculum seems to reflect the disengagement of the core faculty. Only 40 percent of the undergraduate courses were taught by ladder rank faculty. It was noted that a necessary part of succeeding in this field involves faculty being away from campus for extended periods of time for their theater work. CEP will ask that a question be added to the ERC charge regarding evaluation of the new undergraduate requirements related to sequencing and depth. In light of the challenges to getting faculty to support proposed curriculum changes in the last couple of years, CEP discussed adding a question about the department's ability to self-govern such as "does the current curriculum reflect genuine faculty consensus?" CEP would like the ERC to evaluate the amount and type of teaching by the non-ladder rank faculty in this department. Concern was expressed about lack of faculty oversight in student-run productions. CEP would like the ERC to consider if, given the limited resources, there are ways to improve mentorship or whether the number of productions should be reduced. CEP assumes that the department is

scheduling a meeting of their student and staff interns with the ERC. CEP would like the ERC to consider what role the faculty mentors are playing versus the undergraduate interns.

#### **IV. Writing-intensive proposals.**

The Committee discussed the disciplinary communication guidelines provided for consideration in this week's packet which were based on last year's discussions in CEP. Although the current Regulations point to this as a requirement to be satisfied in one course, CEP proposed that it be allowed to be incorporated into a small number of courses (up to three). The proposal indicates that the requirement would be satisfied at the upper-division level. CEP would like to move away from students being able to satisfy the W by taking a course in any discipline to a requirement that students take a course deemed by the faculty to be appropriate to their major, although not necessarily mounted by the department. The proposal calls for a broadening of focus from just writing to "disciplinary communication". If there were significant requirements that students prepare poster-papers, oral presentations, etc., then the minimum number of pages written could be reduced from 25 pages, perhaps to 18. It was noted that if this is an upper-division requirement, it could not be waived for transfer students by the completion of IGETC.

Issues associated with in-residence requirements, such as our current writing-intensive requirement, were discussed and will carry forward to a future agenda.

#### **V. Honors letter to departments and colleges.**

CEP reviewed the spring 2007 preliminary report of honors given by college and major. The Committee requested that the Registrar provide the data on a whole year's cohorts of students for further consideration. The Committee considered whether to share this statistical information with departments and colleges when they send their letter regarding honors and decided to discuss this after seeing a full year of data.

In their letter to departments and colleges CEP will including the following: a thank you for responding to last year's survey, announcement that the Honors legislation passed, CEP's recommended target of 15 percent as an upper limit for giving honors at graduation, a request that departments and colleges consider their honors giving practices, and that they get their honors criteria into the catalog for the December 2008 catalog deadline. The draft letter will be circulated within a week.

CEP will begin looking at honors programs with academic content.

So attests,

Jaye Padgett, Chair  
Committee on Educational Policy