

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
MINUTES**

December 5, 2007

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

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

Absent: Sarah-Hope Parmeter (NSTF).

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

I. Announcements and updates.

Chair Padgett informed the Committee of the interpretation received from Committee on Rules, Jurisdiction, and Elections that CEP may waive local general education or breadth requirements per SCR 10.2.1.5 and 10.2.2.5. Nonetheless, CEP will continue to be very sparing in decisions to waive requirements.

The Committee received an update from the recent UCEP meeting at which was discussed CCGA's report on the topic of residency impacts due to long distance teaching (simulcast) and on-line teaching (where there may be no interaction with the professor and classes are self-paced). It is expected that the number of on-line courses will grow substantially in coming years. The systemwide Regulations will probably need changing in light of the changes to distance learning. CEP commented that the lack of student/faculty contact makes it more difficult for faculty to write letters of recommendation for students. Part-time student admission was discussed at UCEP. UC's part-time program has not been changed in decades, and does not allow for admission at part-time status. UCEP finished considering the BOARS proposal to change frosh admissions criteria. They strongly support some aspects such as dropping SAT II as a requirement and loosening the A-G requirements, and the goal of widening the base of applicants. However, there was a split in UCEP thinking regarding the loss of eligibility guarantee for the top 12.5 percent.

Chair Padgett reported on his meeting with the College 8 core course faculty and provost regarding the idea of cluster GE courses connected through the college core course. College 8 sounds willing to pilot such a program.

The GE reform letter which asks to meet with department faculty will be sent this week. Chairs will be asked to forward the letter to all faculty.

The Committee discussed an inquiry about credit value in excess of 5 credits for a lab class. They discussed the pros and cons of making it two courses versus one course of seven credits. A formal course proposal will be coming forward.

II. Minutes. The November 7 and 14 minutes were accepted as amended.

III. UCEP/CCGA: GSI proposed revisions.

CEP was apprised of last year's discussions regarding possible changes to systemwide policies for graduate student instructor appointments. Some of the more controversial aspects were abandoned, such as use of uniform titles and not allowing graduate students to be instructors of record, resulting in the current proposal which reflects CEP's feedback of last year. The most significant change would be that lower-division and upper-division courses would be treated alike with regard to which require CEP approval. Also of note is that Teaching Assistants (TA) may occasionally teach classes in entirety (not a quarter's worth but a lecture now and again) and that Teaching Fellows may supervise TAs for the class for which they are serving as a graduate student instructor. CEP's local policy does not currently allow Teaching Fellow's to supervise TAs. CEP supports the revised proposal. If the proposal passes, CEP will reconsider their guidelines in light of the changes.

CEP discussed the implications of graduate students serving as primary instructor for graduate level classes such as advanced Ph.D. students teaching Master's or certificate courses. GSI requests for graduate courses are in the purview of the Graduate Council.

IV. Instructional Workload draft policy.

CEP discussed the draft principles for department instructional workload. The Committee had the following questions. [The quotes below are drawn from that document.]

"1. Departments are established with the expectation that they have sufficient faculty resources to offer stable undergraduate/and or graduate curriculum."

What point is trying to be conveyed with that sentence and should "ladder-rank" be added before "faculty"?

"3. Departments with fixed teaching loads for all faculty members should reexamine their practice. Research and service contributions vary significantly across individual faculty and their career phase. The overall workloads should be equivalent, which means that workload in the area of teaching might vary for equity to be achieved."

Does this statement take into account the need to look at a range of time rather than just one year?

"5. Course release as a form of compensation should be judiciously used, especially for the burdens of departmental and administrative service. Alternative forms should be sought, such as assignment of small enrollment courses, summer ninths, larger stipends, or research support (GSRs, readers, etc.) to partially compensate for time taken from research activity".

This statement raised questions about the variety of ways that this does presently and would apply.

“7. Course release requires decanal review to ensure equity across departments in the provision and amount of course release granted for department administration and to guard against the potential that course release could undermine faculty equity, creating perceptions of privileged and non-privileged faculty.”

To number seven, CEP would like to see added that the primary responsibility for the curriculum rests with department chairs and faculty, though deans may exercise oversight.

To their response CEP will add that they think that department chairs should periodically review their course release policies.

Chair Padgett will circulate a draft requiring a response by Monday.

V. External Review Response to review Documents.

Ecology and Environmental Biology (EEB): CEP discussed a draft letter of response to the EEB external review report. CEP recognizes that EEB is in a transitional phase, separating some of their curriculum from MCDB, and that sharing majors creates a impediments to learning how to be educational effective. The Committee sees that it can be difficult to share majors with a department from which one has split. The Committee will consider what to ask of the department and by when. A revised draft will be circulated this week.

VI. GE Reform.

The Committee discussed the content of the planned presentation to be given to departments in winter quarter. Another version will be made available later this week.

CEP was informed that a discussion web site is being planned to enable faculty to discuss general education reform. How to involve students and others in the discussion is also being considered.

So attests,

Jaye Padgett, Chair
Committee on Educational Policy