

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY MINUTES

January 7, 2009
Wednesday, 11 am-1:30 p.m., Kerr Hall, Room 307

From 11-11:15 a.m. the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) met without the standing guests.

Present: Linda Burman-Hall, Holly Cordova (NSTF Rep), Dave Helmbold, Pam Hunt-Carter (Registrar, *ex officio*), Roxanne Monnet (ASO analyst), Loisa Nygaard, Jaye Padgett (Chair), Matthew Palm (SUA Rep), Don Potts, Ravi Rajan (Provost Rep), Shawn Riley (SUA Rep), Eileen Zurbriggen.

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

I. Announcements, updates, and minutes.

CEP extended invitations to the following guests for winter and spring quarters: Margie Claxton (Associate Registrar), Elaine Kihara (Academic Preceptor designee), Bill Ladusaw (Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education), Barbara Love (Articulation Officer), and Michael McCawley (Associate Director of Admissions).

Registrar Hunt-Carter informed the Committee that batch grading is expected to be available by the end of winter term. She welcomed members to contact her if they were willing to volunteer to test the feature.

Chair Padgett informed CEP of a letter that he received from a Senator which was sent in September to the UCSC administration. Chair Padgett was invited to meet next week with the author of the letter, Chancellor Blumenthal, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education Ladusaw, Assistant Chancellor Sanhi. The letter addressed topics that overlapped with a number of Senate committee charges, CEP's in particular. Since much of the letter appears to overlap with aspects of Senate committees charges, consultation with the Senate needs to happen. CEP found the questions raised in the letter to be important and worthy of consideration. They also thought that the letter gave a very ambitious slate of questions and that one year would likely not be enough time to address all of them. One important question not contained in the letter is how the administration and Senate will work together to ensure that students can pursue their educational objectives, despite the current budget picture.

Members were reminded that during winter quarter a significant task for them is to consider all requests to make changes to the undergraduate portions of the general catalog for the coming academic year. As in the past, Chair Padgett will review all requests and determine which may go to CEP subcommittees for finalization versus those that need to go before the full Committee. Subcommittees may bounce requests back to Chair Padgett if they think that a request should have broader review.

The minutes from November 12 were accepted as amended. One sentence of the November 19 minutes will be finalized via email. The balance of that set was accepted as amended.

II. External review closure meetings.

CEP will discuss later this year whether to provide written feedback to Vice Provost for Academic Affairs (VPAA) Galloway who oversees academic external reviews. CEP continues to be concerned that their questions are often not addressed by external review committees (ERC). Some campuses have a CEP member or a Senate member (not from the department under review) on the review committee. Another option to ensure that the ERC is reminded to pay attention to questions asked by the Senate committees would be for a chair or member of one of the Senate Committees to participate in a portion of the initial meeting with the ERC. Members would like to have more useful and consistent statistics on undergraduate programs such as changes in the size of majors. CEP will invite VPAA Galloway to a meeting in the spring to discuss their suggestions.

CEP received updates from the external review closure meetings for the departments of Computer Engineering, History of Consciousness, Literature, Ocean Sciences, and the Information Systems Management Program.

The challenges being experienced by Computer Engineering (CE) due to the delay in the Library remodel and, specifically, in space shifts following the remodel were discussed at the closure meeting. It was noted that one faculty member advises all 100+ Biomedical Engineering majors at present. Whether mechatronics/robotics should be a separate major or a concentration to the existing major was discussed.

History of Consciousness (HisCon) negotiated with their dean that the faculty would teach two undergraduate and two graduate courses per year. Despite the lack of an undergraduate program, HisCon faculty want to do the increased amount of undergraduate teaching in order to build up their undergraduate presence and to ensure teaching assistantship (TA) support for their graduate students. Ladder-rank faculty members will teach the new, additional courses that require TAs and will mentor those TAs. They are developing a Memorandum of Understanding with the American Studies Department regarding TA support.

Literature is working to add faculty in areas where more faculty representation is needed. Last year there was an addition in German literature. They are now recruiting in creative writing and poetry. Next year they hope to add a faculty member in Shakespearian and/or early modern English literature. They are also seeking postdoctoral hires. Discussions on future faculty hiring have the potential to be contentious among the current faculty. The department Chair is working to repair the governance structure of the department through individual faculty meetings, and has created a governance committee with representation from various disciplinary areas of the department. They now have a ranked list for upcoming hires that has some level of faculty agreement. Disparity on TA workload is an issue. CEP asked that the department work on laying out the goals for their undergraduate concentrations. What will happen on that front was not made clear in the meeting. A proposal for a language requirement will be forthcoming to CEP.

The Ocean Sciences' review was quite positive. Ladder-ranked faculty do the department's upper-division teaching. They have a strong TA training program. The dean indicated his support to quickly fill the vacancy that will be caused by an upcoming retirement. The ERC noted a need for more distinction between the Department of Ocean Sciences and the Institute for Marine Sciences.

The Information Systems Management Program has four regular faculty, two of whom are on leave. The need for senior leadership was identified as a key issue for the program. They are recruiting for a chairperson. It is not clear what will occur if the recruitment fails. The ISM faculty are content with having a small major and are interested in attracting more transfer students. CEP wanted to know how students decide on this major versus other similar majors. One way of describing the ISM major is as fitting in the gap between the Business Economics Management major and the Computer Science major.

III. Disciplinary Communication Legislative proposal and non-writing topics.

Chair Padgett is meeting with those college provosts who seem most interested in the Interdisciplinary Topical Cluster (ITC) idea. Merrill College is willing to mount an ITS next year. It would probably develop the theme of their existing core course (Cultural Identities and Global Consciousness). The provost is working to identify faculty interested in teaching in an ITC. Crown College is open to offering a two-course ITC. All of these ITC will be small, pilot-like offerings initially. Oakes' new provost is interested but wants to settle into the position more before making a change to the core course. Cowell College is in the process of recruiting faculty for a possible ITC. Chair Padgett will meet with the Kresge provost soon. CEP discussed outreach to departments regarding ITC in divisions, possibly based on existing coursework. The Development Office is working to get alumni funding for college ITCs.

A revised DC proposal was considered. The Committee discussed whether students seeking double majors would be permitted to satisfy the DC in just one of their majors. Since the requirement is about writing particular to a major, and since the mode of satisfaction may involve a number of courses that students are required to take for their majors, it makes sense to CEP that students would satisfy one per major. Chair Padgett will meet tomorrow with the Committee on Planning and Budget to discuss a funding proposal for the proposed Disciplinary Communication (DC) requirement.

Members will be assigned to subcommittees to consider specific general education topics for presentation at upcoming CEP meetings.

IV. Astronomy and Astrophysics External Review.

Discussion of the Astronomy and Astrophysics external review was carried forward to a future meeting due to lack of time.

So attests,

Jaye Padgett, Chair
Committee on Educational Policy