

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
MINUTES**

**February 18, 2009
Wednesday, 11 am-1:30 p.m., Kerr Hall, Room 307**

Member Don Potts served as chair *pro tem* for the first 20 minutes of the meeting.

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), Don Potts, Ravi Rajan (Provost Rep), Shawn Riley (SUA Rep), Eileen Zurbriggen.

Absent: Matthew Palm (SUA Rep).

Guests: Margie Claxton (Associate Registrar), Bill Ladusaw (VPDUE), Michael McCawley (Associate Director of Admissions).

I. Astronomy and Astrophysics external review.

CEP received an update regarding the recent Astronomy and Astrophysics external review closure meeting. Although no hires are currently underway in the Astronomy and Astrophysics Department, the department plans to ask to replace the position vacated by Chancellor George Blumenthal. There was very little discussion on undergraduate topics in the meeting. The self-study indicated that the department plans to review their Minor, but that has not happened yet and it was not discussed by the External Review Committee (ERC). At the closure meeting the department indicated that they may propose to disestablish the Minor due to the low level of interest (they have had only 2-3 minors in recent years). Astronomy and Astrophysics faculty teach upper-division courses that satisfy requirements for the Physics (Astrophysics) Major. This Major is sponsored by the Physics Department. Course Phys 135 is an advanced lab course that was expanded for those interested in astronomy. Astronomy is seeking outside funds to support the course which is considered to be expensive. The department thinks that they no longer have enough teaching assistant (TA) support to adequately support their lower-division courses. They plan to cut TAs to upper-division courses in order to use them at the lower-division. CEP is concerned regarding the impact that this will have on the curriculum overall.

The department is pushing to reduce time to degree for graduate students and may propose a maximum time limit. They are becoming more selective at the two-year point for advancement to PhD candidacy. There is an expectation that students will either have published a paper or have one accepted for publication by the end of the student's second year, and to publish six papers by their fifth year.

II. Combined Major in Economics and Mathematics.

CEP considered the proposal for a combined major in Economics and Mathematics. The degree would be administered through the Economics Department. Overall the Committee found the

idea to be good. They wondered whether it was a sufficient blend of the two majors to be a combined major rather than a concentration to the Economics Major since the content appears to lean to economics topics. The statement of goals in the proposal indicated that this major would provide an elite level of preparation for students considering graduate-level study.

The capstone options were discussed. Given the goals of this degree to track students into graduate education, CEP was not sure that merely passing final exams in the core courses was an adequate option for fulfilling the senior exit requirement. Although this has been approved as an option for the capstone to the Economic Major, CEP does not find it in line with their recommendations for capstone experiences (CEP 2005 report). However, CEP understands the need for the capstone to be a reasonable amount of work for the faculty of Economics who have a heavy workload already according to their recent external review. CEP will ask the department to consider other capstone options for this combined major.

A member asked why Math 114 is not required for all students taking the combined major.

Since Economics did not provide a response to CEP's request regarding a disciplinary communication requirement for their students (fall quarter), a question will be asked about that for this proposed major.

A draft response will be discussed by CEP in two weeks.

III. Announcements, updates, and minutes.

The instructional subgroup of the budget advisory group to the Campus Provost/Executive Vice Chancellor met recently. Chair Padgett apprised the Committee of that meeting. CEP may be asked to consider the idea of curtailment of narrative evaluations in light of the bad state of the budget. It is thought that the real savings here would be in reduced workload for instructors and TAs. Departments may be asked to fill classrooms to capacity (no lower limits). The printed course schedule is likely to go away. Another recommendation was to stop discouraging departments from using their own space for undergraduate classes and sections, and to ask them not to schedule rooms that they will not be using because they will ultimately use their own space. This would liberate the space for others in a timely fashion and would allow accurate reporting of usage. There is no current state-level capitol plan. In the last plan, it was predicted that it would be eight years before UCSC had more classrooms. Now it is thought that it will be longer. Whether there are benefits in altering teaching time blocks was discussed. The question was raised of how accurately our student contact hours are being measured. Are we giving adequate count to discussion sections, for example. It would be useful to know whether the current 3.5 hour lecture standard could be reduced in light of contact hours held in sections. This could create an opportunity to better utilize large lecture space or to hold larger classes where appropriate, especially in light of the expectation that there will be fewer lecturers hired in the near term. CEP noted that teaching in other spaces could create issues around media resources.

Chair Padgett reviewed for CEP his visit with the Arts Division Council of Chairs that occurred before today's meeting. It was his sense that they seemed happy with the direction of the general education (GE) reform proposal.

January 14 and 21 minutes were accepted as amended.

IV. CRJE feedback to legislation on GE and Appendix C.

The Committee on Rules, Jurisdiction, and Elections (CRJE) found CEP's GE reform proposal and the proposal to change Appendix C to reduce the time to submit grievances to be clear and not in conflict with other Senate bylaws and regulations.

V. General education proposal justification.

The legislative language for the GE reform proposal was completed for last Friday's deadline. The language for the justification was reviewed and suggestions for revision were given. Work was done on the text of the summary statements of educational goals and the draft guidelines that will be included with the proposal as an appendix. These will be finalized this week by email.

At the February 11 meeting, CEP voted to change Interpreting Media to Interpreting Arts and Media, and to change Collaborative Work to Collaborative Endeavor. Possible other titles for Statistical Reasoning were discussed but CEP voted to retain the original title.

VI. Concurrent enrollment topics.

Discussion of concurrent enrollment topics was carried forward to a future meeting due to lack of time.

So attests,

Jaye Padgett, Chair
Committee on Educational Policy