

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY MINUTES

April 29, 2009

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

Present: Linda Burman-Hall, Holly Cordova (NSTF Rep), Dave Helmbold, Roxanne Monnet (ASO analyst), Loisa Nygaard, Jaye Padgett (Chair), Matthew Palm (SUA Rep), Shawn Riley (SUA Rep), Eileen Zurbriggen.

Absent: Pam Hunt-Carter (Registrar, *ex officio*), Don Potts, Ravi Rajan (Provost Rep).

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

I. Announcements and updates.

Chair Padgett met with Philosophy Chair Roth and Professor Jon Ellis to discuss Philosophy support for the Cowell ITC endeavor. Chair Roth agreed that Philosophy would sponsor a course taught by Professor Ellis for this ITC, beginning next year. Chair Padgett also informed the committee of a presentation on general education reform and ITCs that he participated in over the weekend for UCSC Pioneer Alumni, organized and moderated by VPDUE Ladusaw.

SEC will discuss the Humanities Chairs letter re: narrative evaluations

II. General Education Topics.

CEP discussed the form that the general education (GE) guidelines should take before they go out for faculty review, specifically on the topic of assessment. Members agreed that the descriptive paragraphs are ready but that they need to add points to aid in faculty (re)development of courses, as well as questions to draw the types of information that CEP will need to be able to approve courses.

III. SCR 6.5 Special Studies.

CEP considered draft justification to accompany the proposed revision of SCR 6.5 on special studies to bring the Regulation more in line with current practice, and with faculty thinking on appropriate limits on special study courses in any given quarter.

The Committee agreed that undeclared majors should be limited to 7 credits per quarter with no exceptions. There is no realistic means of tracking exceptional use of special study credits for undeclared majors and providing advice or oversight. Also, undeclared majors are better served by preparing for majors and satisfying general education requirements than by taking many special study courses. Members also agreed that declared majors should have the support of their major-sponsoring unit before they are approved for more than 7 credits of special studies in one quarter. CEP does not plan to propose a career limit on special study courses. Individual Majors would get the approval of their colleges, since the colleges act as the major-sponsoring units for Individual Major students.

CEP further agreed that when they have approved an amount of special studies credits above the limit of 7 credits per quarter for a certain Major Program, no further request for exception to the 7 credit rule should be required of those students to complete the requirements of their major. For example, the Community Studies Major is approved by CEP to allow two quarters of >7 credits each.

Final text will be considered via email before next week's meeting when a vote will be taken and the proposal submitted for the legislative deadline for the May 20 Senate Meeting.

IV. SCR 10.2.2.3 on Topical Requirement waivers for transfer students.

With the upcoming conversion to the new GE requirements, CEP recognizes that it may not be a good use of Admissions staff time to continue to articulate course to Topical requirements. This course-to-course articulation is on-going because of the most recent amendment to SCR 10.2.2.3 on transfer credit. Prior to that amendment, transfer students were permitted to waive 1-3 of their Topical requirements based on the number of UC transferrable lower-division credits they had earned elsewhere. It appears from past record that at the time the Topical requirements were established, the Senate faculty thought there was not a sufficient number of courses taught in community colleges that would fit the intent of these requirements, causing an issue for transfer students who were planning to satisfy GE requirements before matriculating at UCSC.

The Committee considered and voted in favor of the proposal to change SCR 10.2.2.3 to restore the option for students to waive Topical requirements based on transfer credit, as well as to keep the option for students to have course-to-course articulation to meet these requirements. Students cannot use both options.

V. Economics External Review.

CEP discussed the draft letter of response to the external review for the Economics Department and supported it with minor revision.

The Committee took this opportunity to discuss the department's recent response to CEP's questions related to the Economics and Mathematics combined major, which says that Economics thinks that the senior comprehensive requirement has outlived its intent at UCSC; that they do not have the resources to consider a capstone requirement for this major which differs from what they have for their other majors; and that until they have an understanding of what additional resources may be available, they cannot propose what would be a good disciplinary communication requirement for Economics majors. CEP will respond by referring them to the 2005 report CEP prepared on senior comprehensive requirements which indicated that capstones are beneficial for other reasons than originally envisioned, leading to the recommendation in the report that such things as exams are not the best way for students to satisfy this requirement. CEP will further encourage the department to consider additional options for the capstone for the newly proposed combined major. Since the department indicated in the proposal that it is likely to draw a fairly small number of students (~20) and this major has a goal of preparing students for graduate school, CEP would like to see something more than simply passing certain core classes. CEP will invite Economics to be in touch with the Writing Program to discuss development of a curriculum for Economics majors to satisfy the DC requirement.

VI. Catalog topics: Science Education concentrations.

Science Education concentration in MCD Biology: CEP discussed a draft response to the proposal for a science education concentration in MCD Biology which relays the Committees concern that there are too many requirements in the proposal, that the requirements may not be the best combination to prepare students to teach in the general sciences, and that students should take more lab courses since labs will be an important part of the teaching that they do in the sciences. One idea that the department may want to consider is a separate major (similar to what Physics is considering). The letter will be revised and circulated via email for further consideration.

Art: The Art department is proposing to add a disqualification policy for their Major. Students must receive a B or better in three lower-division studio courses or they will not be permitted to Major in art (no more than 4 attempts would be allowed). CEP will inquire about their appeals policy and the relationship between the admissions policy and disqualification policy.

Math: The Math Department has proposed changes to their Major and Minor to meet the minimum required upper-division credits per Senate Regulation. They also submitted text regarding their honors policies and proposed to change their final exam policy. CEP approved these requests. It was noted that their catalog copy gave two differing names for the proposed combined major with Economics. CEP will ask that these be consistent. The Economics Department has indicated their support for it to be called a combined major in Economics and Mathematics (alphabetical order).

The balance of the catalog topics was carried forward to a future meeting due to lack of time.

So attests,

Jaye Padgett, Chair
Committee on Educational Policy