

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
MINUTES**

May 6, 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), Don Potts, Ravi Rajan (Provost Rep), Shawn Riley (SUA Rep), Eileen Zurbriggen.

Absent: Pam Hunt-Carter (Registrar, *ex officio*).

Guests: Margie Claxton (Associate Registrar), Elaine Kihara (Academic Preceptor Designee), Bill Ladusaw (VPDUE).

I. Announcements, updates, and minutes.

Chair Padgett apprised CEP of the recent University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) meeting. UCEP approved UC Merced's giving of University Honors. UCEP voted to repeal Senate Regulation (SR) 764 which limits the number of special studies courses that undergraduates may take. Next the proposal goes forward to the Academic Council. The idea of differential student fees by field was discussed (such as higher fees for engineers, for example). The proposal to give emergency powers to the UC President to enact lay-offs and furloughs was discussed. Campuses will soon have an opportunity to give feedback to this proposal, which will go to the Regents for a vote in July.

UCEP discussed a report submitted by a Senate task force related to educational objectives assessment. The report indicates that the assessment needs to be faculty controlled and carried out at the level of departments. This is likely to be a topic of discussion at UCSC next year.

Non-resident enrollments at UC were also discussed at UCEP. Currently only six percent of UC's students comes from out of state. Of these, 1.5 percent are non-U.S. citizens. UCOP wants to increase the number of out-of-state students because they bring in more revenue than do California residents. In the past, UCOP did not give campus targets for enrollment of out-of-state residents. Recently UCOP began to give such targets. They now hold back funds equivalent to what would be brought in by out-of-state residents up to each campus's target, regardless of whether they meet their targets. The result could be a greater financial loss to some campuses. Among other things UCEP discussed whether the proposal to hold more spaces open for non-residents is in conflict with the California master plan for education.

This week's Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meeting was reviewed for CEP by Chair Padgett. The Committee on Teaching (COT) reported to SEC on their piloting over the last year of on-line course evaluations. UCSC is moving from Web CT to SAKAI. COT's data showed that response rates for evaluations conducted out of the classroom go down for male students but

not for female students. Campuses with incentives for completing evaluations saw an increase in responses. Stanford withholds grades until evaluations are completed. CEP wonders how incentives or punishment affect student responses. CEP continues to have an interest in the ability to gather responses to certain questions and supports that some advancement be made in how student evaluations are collected. CEP wondered how best to ensure that the identity of the person doing the evaluation when it is not completed in class. The Committee would like to see an in-class form of electronic evaluation. A CEP member who participated in the pilot program this year noted that there were various technological challenges in the pilot program implementation. For example, long open-ended comments from students were not included in full on the final report (but a complete version could be generated by the analyst, on an individual basis). More important are methodological challenges in ensuring that online evaluations do not result in more biased evaluations than evaluations completed in the classroom. There is some evidence from other universities, and from survey methodology more generally, that online evaluations might be more likely to be completed by those students who are extremely satisfied or extremely dissatisfied. Data on this would be welcome. Funding is a significant obstacle to how UCSC can go forward with on-line evaluations. CEP thinks that the faculty should discuss separating information from the evaluations that is for the personnel process from information that is for the faculty member, or for CEP's own purposes, such as when CEP wants to pursue a GE-related question. CEP supports inclusion of a question akin to "rate your level of participation in the course." UCSC's Scantron program has reached capacity, the technology and equipment are old, and it has been costly to maintain this program.

CEP discussed a letter sent to Chair Padgett from the Chair of the Latin American/Latino Studies (LALS) Department expressing concern related to the recent lay-off of two of their regular lecturers. CEP discussed the Committee's role in situations such as this. CEP oversees whether the curricular needs for degree requirements will be met. CEP also has authority over who instructs particular courses, authority it normally delegates to departments. The Committee is concerned about curricular and programmatic decisions being made at the division level for reasons of budget without Senate consultation. The LALS department responded to Dean Kamieniecki that they would rather have these lecturers on staff than proceed with their faculty recruitment which makes this situation distinct from some other lecturer layoffs that have happened on campus. Dean Kamieniecki did not support this request from the department. The various details of LALS's curriculum are not clear from the letter. CEP will respond now to acknowledge receipt of the letter and will work on a more in-depth response via email. CEP expects that divisional deans will follow Senate process. The Committee will consult with the Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) and SEC regarding LALS and the situation with layoffs in Community Studies. These decisions seem inconsistent with the EVC's statement that a goal of how to take the cuts is to affect the teaching mission as little as possible. CEP will mention in their longer response their concern over loss of diversity that the LALS layoffs may cause.

CEP expressed the strong need for more communication on what is happening with regard to budget cuts on campus. Chair Padgett informed them that the administration has a May 15 deadline for deans to return their complete budget cut plans. Until then it is difficult for the administration to effectively communicate on how divisions are addressing their cuts.

II. SCR 6.5 – Special Studies.

CEP discussed and voted in favor of the legislative proposal to change SCR 6.5 which will be submitted for today's legislative deadline and brought to the Senate at their May 20 meeting. Minor changes were recommended to the justification.

III. Catalog Topics.

CEP was reminded that the state does not allow majors in education, even at the CSUs. However, there is not a prohibition against the use of the word "education" in the names of degrees. It was noted that UC Riverside has a geoscience education major.

Biology Education Concentration: A draft response to the proposal for a concentration in BioEducation was discussed. CEP's response will include a question about what may happen to the concentration if the funding for CalTeach goes away.

Earth Sciences Education Concentration: The Committee supported the text of the draft letter of approval for the Earth Sciences education concentration.

Earth Sciences (general) BA discontinuation: CEP approved the request to discontinue the general BA in Earth Sciences. Their response will address the need for a teach-out plan.

Dual Degree Engineering (3/2) discontinuation: CEP approved the request to discontinue the Dual Degree Engineering Program. This program tracks students into engineering programs at UC Berkeley after completing major requirements for a degree outside of sciences/engineering at UCSC. In the early days of engineering at UCSC this was a valuable program for raising the awareness of engineering at UCSC and to gain the student enrollments in this area. CEP will add in their letter that this degree option should not have been removed from admissions materials before its discontinuation was vetted through the Senate and decided upon. A member will draft a response for circulation to members via email.

Cognitive Sciences BS: CEP held an initial discussion regarding the proposal for a BS in Cognitive Sciences. Most other UCs have such a major. The curriculum is very interdisciplinary. Per routine Senate process, CPB will comment on the proposal. The Committee on Rules, Jurisdiction, and Elections (CRJE) will review the faculty bylaws that were included with the proposal.

CEP will recommend in their response that the proposing faculty reword the language regarding upper-division requirements for better clarity. The admissions policy given in the proposal differs from Psychology's admissions requirement in that no single grade may be lower than a C for Cognitive Sciences. CEP will point out in their response that Regulations already indicate that no grade of lower than a C is allowed for courses to satisfy Major requirements. The Committee wonders how the Regulation that allows for students to retake courses would fit with the proposed admissions policy and would like to know whether the reason for the admissions requirement relates to advising or whether it is resource driven. The founders will be reminded of the need for an appeals process. The proposal requests that the courses for the Major need to

be taken for letter-grade. CEP wonders whether calculus is needed for Cognitive Science or whether it is intended as a “filter” of majors, and whether other math courses such as AMS 2 or Math 4 would be better alternatives. CEP wants to ensure that the degree is accessible to transfer students. The Committee will mention the need for the department to consider the disciplinary communication (DC) requirement in the proposal.

The remaining catalog topics on the agenda will be carried forward due to lack of time.

IV. General Education (GE) Topics.

College 8 Interdisciplinary Topical Cluster (ITC): The proposal for the College 8 ITC asks for GE designations of the current GE system, which allow for some overlap. The decisions on this ITC sequence are not precedent setting for the new requirements. Next year’s CEP will need to consider the issue of overlapping GEs within the new requirements. The request is for CLEI 80A/B in the fall to carry either C1 or C2 in addition to the Topical in Social Sciences. A 3-credit course would be added to the fall to allow more time for writing (CLEI 81A). CEP thought it was a great plus for students that the proposal calls for 8 credits of core in the fall (80A/B at 5, plus 81A at 3 credits), allowing for more writing instruction and practice.

The winter course CLEI/EART 81B combined with the spring course CLEI/EE 81C would earn students the Quantitative (Q) requirement and the Topical in Natural Sciences according to the proposal.

The quantitative (Q) course subcommittee will respond on whether the winter and spring courses would be approved to each satisfy the Q designation. If not, they will comment on whether the Q could be earned by the completion of both courses.

With the exception of the Q designation, the request is approved.

V. Economics External Review Stage 2.

The members reviewed a draft letter of response to the Economics External Review Committee report. Minor text changes were offered. Members approved the letter.

So attests,

Jaye Padgett, Chair
Committee on Educational Policy