

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY MINUTES

October 22, 2008

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

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, Shawn Riley (SUA Rep), Eileen Zurbriggen.

Guests: Margie Claxton (Associate Registrar), Jon Ellis (Senate Service Scholar), Elaine Kihara (Academic Preceptor Designee), Bill Ladusaw (VPDUE), Michael McCawley (Associate Director of Admissions).

I. Announcements and updates.

CEP briefly discussed whether to continue to require final reports for Student Directed Seminars (and productions). They decided to retain the requirement and to discontinue the practice of returning the reports to departments/colleges after they are reviewed by the Committee. CEP thinks that the reports may provide a valuable historic record for future review of the success of these courses.

Chair Padgett apprised CEP of his recent meeting with alumni leaders involved in the plan for a Comprehensive Campaign at UCSC. The discussion focused on topics that CEP is considering for general education reform, particularly those of potential interest to alumni, such as the Interdisciplinary Topical Clusters (ITC).

The group was reminded of the CAF Forum scheduled for tomorrow at 3 p.m. in the Alumni Room of the University Center. Eben Moglen will give a talk titled: Beyond Selling and Surveillance: Fundamental Academic Values and the University in the Internet Age.

II. General Education Reform.

The Committee discussed the draft presentation and timeline for the October 29 Forum on General Education (GE) Reform. A subcommittee of members will prepare text on the goals of general education for inclusion in the presentation.

CEP will remind faculty that the forum is part of the continuing consultation process and that CEP's proposals are still fluid. Thus far, CEP has not received feedback that retaining the current system is attractive to anyone.

For GE Reform to succeed, faculty need to be able to articulate what it is that they want students to learn. Such discussions lead to the forming of educational priorities. CEP wants educational goals from every department (in the case of disciplinary communication) and every division (subject area breadth) by the forum or shortly thereafter.

Members were asked to summarize the DC responses that were submitted by departments in their home divisions and provide those documents to the Chair by Monday morning.

III. External reviews.

The Committee decided that this year's external review letters would go under the signature of the Committee Chair, as is the case for the other two Senate committees involved in these reviews.

History of Consciousness: CEP found the draft letter to be well written and an accurate reflection of the points made by the Committee. They support the letter for submission.

Literature: Member Loisa Nygaard recused herself from the discussion. CEP wonders whether there are enough course offerings to maintain all the concentrations that are currently on the books for the Literature Department. With minor changes, CEP supported the draft letter.

Politics: CEP held its initial discussion of the Politics Department External Review Committee (ERC) report and responses to the report.

The Major in Legal Studies was discussed. The department wants this Major to be smaller due to the need for resources elsewhere in the curriculum and may request to limit the Major. One idea suggested is for the Legal Studies Major to become a concentration under the Politics Major. Concern was expressed that Legal Studies would lose its interdisciplinary nature and focus if it were to shift to being a concentration of the Politics Major. CEP wonders whether the Legal Studies Major is owned by a sufficient number of Senate faculty and whether the percent of non-Senate teaching is overly high in the area of Legal Studies. CEP thinks that both of these situations are undesirable and should be redressed if they exist. If the Legal Studies Major is a feeder into law school, perhaps a grade or GPA threshold, or some other performance based restriction, is appropriate for this Major as a way of limiting the size of the program.

The Committee wonders how the plans for the Politics graduate program will draw resources away from undergraduate efforts.

The ERC report raised concerns regarding assessment of teaching. This issue was not addressed in the department or dean's responses. The ERC report suggested that other forms of evaluation be considered, such as visits to the classroom and a more quantitative evaluation form, in order to provide clear feedback. It appears from the report that junior faculty may be confused about the weight that teaching may have for their personnel reviews. CEP wants the department to provide mentorship on the importance of teaching to its faculty.

Thus far, departments have been expected to accommodate all qualified students in their degree programs. Some other Universities have fixed parameter such as when a Major reaches a certain threshold, a proposal to limit the Major will be considered. CEP will discuss in the future whether to propose campus or division policies on limiting the size of Majors.

So attests,

Jaye Padgett, Chair
Committee on Educational Policy