

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY MINUTES

October 29, 2008

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, Shawn Riley (SUA Rep), Eileen Zurbriggen.

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

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

I. Announcements and updates.

Chair Padgett apprised the Committee on his recent meeting with representatives from University Relations and the UCSC Foundation who were very enthusiastic about the idea of Interdisciplinary Topical Clusters (ITCs). They concur that alumni may be very interested in the ITC idea. They want to keep CEP connected to colleges and alumni.

II. External Review Discussions.

Feminist Studies: CEP held its initial discussion of the Feminist Studies draft external review charge. CEP will indicate in its response that it was unacceptable that there is no self-study provided for consideration. It was noted that the last two reviews also lacked documents such as a dean's response. It was also unacceptable that the undergraduate program was not addressed in the last two reviews. The last two reviews demonstrated that this is a department in transition. In this context and given the lack of a self-study, CEP wonders whether the department has a clear and cohesive vision. The Committee will ask what impact has occurred/is anticipated due to recent or pending retirements and separations. Concern was expressed regarding the Teaching Assistant to student ratio in their introductory course and what will happen to the course in light of faculty turnover. Concern was expressed about there being a sufficient number of faculty for both the undergraduate and graduate programs. The Committee does not think the department should move to adding a graduate program until it is clear that the existing undergraduate programs are being successfully maintained. To augment the faculty teaching efforts, the Committee wonders whether there are ways to draw more on the skills and expertise of affiliated faculty to serve undergrads in their curriculum. Based on the past reviews, it seems that the curriculum has been in transition for a long time. The Committee wonders whether the current tracks are working well. A draft response will be considered at the November 12 meeting.

Film and Digital Media: The initial discussion of the Film and Digital Media draft external review charge was held. In the last review CEP asked how the department could increase student achievement and the quality of undergraduate courses. That question was not clearly answered in the new self-study. The self-study included a list of various needs to support the department's efforts. CEP wonders how the faculty can scale their plans in light of current resource constraints. The Committee would like clarity on the graduate student role in educating the majors and minors. CEP wonders how the new graduate program will impact undergraduates in this period of resource limitations. The committee will ask that a question be added about FDM's relationship with DANM. The impact of the computer games

design program on the FDM major is unclear. Since the last review the department introduced a minimum grade requirement in 3 courses as a filter into the FDM pre-major. CEP recently received a letter from the department with a progress report on how the first year with this requirement went and will consider the feedback at a future meeting. CEP will ask that a question be added to the charge to have the ERC comment on the appropriateness of the requirement and whether the requirement is working well. A draft response will be considered at the November 12 meeting.

Economics: CEP considered whether to add questions to the external review committee charge for the Economics Department. The self-study for Economics demonstrated that the undergraduate program is strong and healthy. Economics sponsors three Majors. The accounting track appears to be superb and is currently the largest major on campus. The program is supervised by one SOE lecturer. The department wants to add a similar finance track to the curriculum and possibly an honors track which they are working on now. They also want to be part of the proposed School of Management. On the one hand the self-study discusses these ambitious ideas, and on the other it expresses concern over workload. CEP wants to better understand the relationship between the new initiatives that Economics is considering and their current workload. Are the initiatives about shaping or expanding the student population? To what extent would these initiatives shape the size of the program in areas of particular faculty interests? The department expresses the view that support for the writing-intensive requirement for their majors is inadequate. CEP will ask whether they have ideas about a requirement that would work better for their students, like the proposed disciplinary communication requirement. A draft letter will be considered on November 12.

History: The draft external review charge and self-study for the History Department were discussed. CEP found the department's self-study to be well done. The department has changed dramatically since the last external review. The staff size has doubled, in part due to interdepartmental transfers. The faculty have grown in size by 50 percent after ~25 years at a steady size. Training and development of TAs was expressed as a concern in the previous ERC report. CEP will ask how well the TA training course is working. The Committee will also ask whether the educational goals of the concentrations of the History Major are clear and appropriate. A draft response will be considered on November 12.

Mathematics: CEP considered the ERC report on the Math Department's external review and the department and division responses. The Committee found this external review to show significant improvement in a number of areas over the past review period. The ERC expressed concern about large upper-division math courses, some of which enroll >60. There has been improvement in the lower-division course offering as successful on-going lecturers teach these rather than short-term appointees. TA training and mentorship was mentioned in the report as a concern. CEP will ask about the department's plan to discuss services courses offered for other majors. Concern was expressed regarding the course sequences prior to calculus. As with so many departments, the course offerings have been reduced at the time that student numbers are increasing. Of those who take the placement exam, 50 percent test into Math 2 or 3. Sections for Math 2 and 3 enroll greater than >30 students per TA. Learning Support Services supports special sections for students who test into Math 3 at the low end of the range and for those in Math 2. It is not clear whether there is a coherent approach on math focused on educational outcomes. What is the right approach to be most effective in beginning calculus? It would be beneficial to set goals and study the results of those goals. In their response the Committee will ask for the department's goals for their curriculum (educational objectives) and how they assess whether those are being met. The response will ask about the goals that other departments may have for them via the service courses that they offer, and what goals they have for general education requirements for all students at UCSC. A draft response will be considered at the November 12 meeting.

Presently there does not appear to be an effective way for the stakeholders (departments who have course requirements sponsored by another department) to give the feedback to the feeder departments and to assess whether those have been achieved. This needs to be a continuing conversation.

Ocean Sciences: CEP discussed the external review for Ocean Sciences. The review was found to be very positive. This department does not have an undergraduate program at this time. Their faculty teach course required for a number of majors sponsored by other departments, in particular the Earth Sciences/Ocean Sciences BS and the Marine Biology BS. In their self-study they express an interest in developing an inter-departmental major in environmental sciences. A draft response letter will be discussed at the November 12 meeting.

Sociology: Discussion of the Sociology external review was carried forward to the next meeting due to lack of time.

Theater Arts: Discussion of the Theater Arts external review was carried forward to the next meeting due to lack of time.

So Attests,

Jaye Padgett, Chair
Committee on Educational Policy