

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
MINUTES**

November 12, 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, Ravi Rajan (Provost Rep), Shawn Riley (SUA Rep), Eileen Zurbriggen.

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

I. Announcements and updates.

Minutes for October 22 were accepted as amended.

Chair Padgett updated the Committee on his discussion with College 8 regarding formation of an Interdisciplinary Topical Cluster (ITC). College 8 is ready to proceed with their first offering of an ITC during fall quarter 2009. The first course in the series will be a version of the current Core Course with a focus on sustainability. The second quarter course will have sections that fulfill the C1/C2 requirement with a course taught by one or a combination of Physical and Biological Sciences Departments (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Earth and Planetary Sciences, and/or Ocean Sciences) covering such subjects as global warming, weather, water, and pollution issues. The third quarter will be an Electrical Engineering course discussing solutions to sustainability and energy related issues. Due to resource limitations and a desire to proceed gradually, this sequence will be available to only a portion of College 8 students at this time.

II. External review discussion.

Economics: CEP considered a draft response to the charge for the upcoming Economics external review visit. The Committee wonders how the department will manage to squeeze in the plans described in their self study given their high student-to-faculty workload. With minor changes, the response letter was accepted for sending.

Feminist Studies: The self-study for Feminist Studies has just been received. In light of this, the Senate has been given until January 30 to respond to the draft charge for their external review. Given the lack of discussion on undergraduate topics in the last two reviews, CEP will add a request that the dean take care to be sure that the undergraduate program is reviewed this time. Given recent and upcoming faculty separations, CEP will ask what are the future plans for Feminist Studies course 1A and whether the department is making as much use as possible of the research and teaching talents that exist elsewhere on campus, including the program's affiliated faculty. A final discussion will occur in January after CEP has reviewed the self-study.

Film and Digital Media (FDM): A response to the draft charge of FDM was discussed. A couple years ago a GPA threshold for entry into the major was approved by CEP for FDM. Understanding that any time a GPA threshold is established there can be issues with access for less privileged students, CEP will ask whether they can evaluate whether access has been impacted adversely for certain groups of students. CEP finds it necessary that the School of Engineering and FDM work together to consider the needs associated with the impact on FDM created by the new Computer Game Design major. The letter will be finalized via email.

History: A response to the draft external review charge for the History Department was discussed. With minor modifications the letter was approved for sending.

Mathematics: CEP considered a draft response to the Math Department's external review. The letter was accepted for sending with minor changes.

Ocean Sciences: A draft response to the Ocean Sciences external review was discussed. Despite its small size and lack of an undergraduate major, Ocean Sciences is making substantial contributions to undergraduate education and provides high-quality courses important for several majors in other departments. The department mentioned an interest in participating in development of an environmental sciences major. The letter was deemed to be ready to go with minor changes.

Computer Sciences (CS): CEP held its initial discussion regarding the Computer Sciences external review. Member Helmbold recused himself after answering questions raised by members.

CEP found that the undergraduate vision lack cohesion and long-term thinking. The Committee is dismayed at the extent to which the External Review Committee (ERC) report ignored CEP's questions. Additionally, the department's response seemed not to address the concerns raised by CEP or the ERC. Where the department agreed with the ERC's recommendations, they did not address planned actions toward these recommendations in their response.

The low faculty-to-student workload ratio would suggest that students could have significant access to faculty but the student survey data seems to say the opposite. CEP is concerned about the additional impact on the undergraduate program that could be caused if faculty move to NASA-Ames. The ERC report indicated that students commented negatively on the quality of Teaching Assistants (TAs) for CS courses. This may be due to a shortage of available graduate students willing to hold TAs. CEP will ask how the department plans to assess the quality of TAs and address associated issues.

CEP will ask whether interdisciplinary overlap, such as with FDM, is being worked into the vision of the department.

It is not clear from the ERC report whether there are sufficient resources for what may be a significant increase in need for access to the game design lab. It was predicted that there would be 40-60 games design majors. On the order of 100 students who entered in fall 2008 indicated their intent to select this major.

UCSC is rather unique in that the School of Engineering (SOE) has three separate departments (Computer Engineering, Computer Sciences, and Electrical Engineering) where most other campuses have one or two covering these fields. There is speculation that combining some or all of these departments would reduce competition for resources and confusion over unclear boundaries within the overlapping intellectual spectrum. CEP would like to know how students select from among the 3 majors (CE, CS, EE) and whether there are lower-division stumbling points for any of these programs. Is it clear to students why they might want to pick one of these majors over another? Although the department agrees that reorganization seems a good thing to consider, they are concerned about the effort needed for such a review.

Information Sciences Management (ISM): Discussion of the ISM external review was carried forward due to lack of time.

III. Accountability Report.

CEP discussed the accountability report provided to the Senate for review by the Office of the President of the University of California.

The Committee discussed whether there were accountability measures that should be added or removed from the document, specific to CEP's purview. Some of the measures given were found to be standard and good (retention and degrees produced). UC should also consider the successes of students in the long run as a measure of the quality of undergraduate education at the campuses. Are test scores for incoming students as good an indicator as the rate of students who go to graduate schools from the campus? CEP will recommend that engagement with the community be added as a measure. It was noted that community service was mentioned for students in the report but not for faculty. CEP will recommend that a reference to faculty service be added. The question was raised of why the named institutions are considered our peers and how they were selected.

Some graphs were found to be confusing and possibly misleading due to differing legends for the campuses. CEP was not persuaded by the comment that it was not feasible to adjust data for campus size and funding. The Committee thinks that the differential funding of the campuses should be looked at and that, if appropriately adjustments are not made, some campuses could be disproportionately disadvantaged based on this report.

It concerned CEP that Berkeley and UCLA were referred to as the "flagship campuses". The Committee does not find it appropriate that the report gives the perspective that one or two campuses are the focus of the University of California. Further concern was expressed regarding what may result in a stratification based on perceived quality of the various campuses.

Chair Padgett will circulate a draft via email that will need a quick response.

IV. General Education Reform Topics.

The content of the oral report to occur at the Senate Meeting today was briefly reviewed, including the idea of moving toward a one-dimensional approach to general education.

CEP discussed plans for Friday's brown bag workshop related to cross-cultural topics.

The primary goal of the general education brown bags workshops is for CEP to get more input and clarity on whether the current ideas they are considering are on track with the thinking of the Senate.

So attests,

Jaye Padgett, Chair
Committee on Educational Policy