

## **COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY MINUTES**

**November 19, 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), Don Potts, Shawn Riley (SUA Rep), Ravi Rajan (Provost Rep), Eileen Zurbriggen.

Absent: Matthew Palm (SUA Rep).

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.**

Chair Padgett briefly reviewed the November 12 Senate Meeting for the group at which he gave a brief oral report on the status of general education reform efforts. The Faculty Salaries Taskforce Report was the main item of discussion at the Senate Meeting. There is concern about what level of support the Administration will give to the recommendations.

CEP was apprised by Chair Padgett of the recent Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meeting. The Regents are considering issuing a bond for as much as \$2B to seismically retrofit buildings at some campuses. It appears that the terms of the bond proposal would have all campuses pay for the retrofit of other campuses whether or not they would benefit from the bond. Concern was expressed about the impact to the campuses. SEC discussed the job description for the faculty assistant to Executive Vice Chancellor (EVC)/Campus Provost Kliger. The position primarily supports the academic personnel process at the EVC level by reviewing files and giving recommendations to EVC Kliger, and by making recommendations on policy. Faculty may not know that there is a step between CAP and EVC that may be playing an important role in their personnel process. SEC thinks this needs to be transparent and somewhat accountable to the Senate. At other universities the roles of our Vice Provost for Academic Affairs (VPA) and the faculty assistant are combined into one position. SEC plans to talk to the EVC about the role of this position versus the VPA.

Member Potts volunteered to attend the UCEP meeting on December 1, since Chair Padgett will not be available to attend..

### **II. External review discussions.**

The draft response letter to Sociology was discussed. The letter was supported and deemed ready to send.

Computer Engineering (CE): CEP held the initial discussion of the Computer Engineering external review.

The External Review Committee (ERC) indicated that early advising in CE could improve. CE offers a course that does include advising on the distinction between CE and related majors but student are not required to take it. CEP will encourage CE to consider ways for the faculty to interact among themselves and with the undergraduates and to provide more student access to faculty advisors before declaring the major. The informal faculty/undergraduate lunches held in CE might be beneficial in that regard.

Computer Engineering course 185 is a model for writing-intensive courses and covers modes of communication in addition to writing.

In the self-study CE expresses an interest in developing a new major in Megatronics for which significant resources would be needed.

In the ERC report for Computer Sciences (CS) possible unification of CE, CS, and EE was discussed. CS seemed interested in the idea based on their self-study. It appears that the distinctions between CE and CS are more blurred than was the case 20 years ago when one department's focus was on hardware and the other on software. Some of the undergraduate curriculum does seem quite similar between CE and CS. The acting dean of the School of Engineering (SoE) is against merging the departments and finds cross-listed courses to be problematic. CEP will encourage more collaboration between these departments.

Information Systems Management (ISM): CEP held the initial discussion of the ISM external review and found the ERC report to be good in that it addressed their questions. CEP asked about undergraduate dissatisfaction and quality of teaching assistants. ISM's response does not address these issues perhaps because the program has all new faculty and new curriculum. This is the first review of their new graduate program and of the newly created minor. Course ISM 158 carries the writing-intensive designation.

The ERC indicated a serious need for a strong research presence in the program. They think that the graduate program and faculty research will be the road to informing the choice of emphasis. ISM has a good start, great promise, but appears to be a fragile program. CEP wonders how the new grad program will impact the undergraduate program. CEP is concerned that increased involvement of the ISM faculty in the Silicon Valley Center may but not be good for the undergraduate program. It could fragment faculty time at campus significantly, reducing availability of the faculty to these majors. Most of the teaching by ladder rank faculty for this major is done by junior faculty.

It is not clear to CEP why there has been a decrease in student numbers. There was speculation that the grade requirement to declare the major may be a barrier. A name change was recommended by the ERC. The ISM major used to be jointly managed by Economics and Computer Sciences. It was large toward the turn of the century. It is dramatically smaller now, and the number of SIRs was very low for fall 2008 (10-20). The headcount on majors since 2000 appears to have reduced from 100 to 40 as of 2006. The business management economics (BME) major may have cut into the enrollments for this major. ISM is similar to BME but more technical. The dot.com bust probably also played a part in the decrease in enrollments. The major got more rigorous over that time. The unclear name and lack of publicity likely also have contributed to the decline.

CEP is concerned about the fragility and a possible lack of critical mass to support the major, especially in a climate where the needed resources may not be forthcoming. One possibility to consider would be integration of the program with another in some way. Such a change could make ISM more attractive to students.

CEP will ask what is the medium-range plan to transition this program from where they are now to the position described in the self-study as stable and will ask about the plan to keep the curriculum going smoothly in the meantime. Faculty mentoring needs to be part of the transition plan.

One lecturer has been doing nearly all of the lower-division teaching and doing an excellent job of it. In order to retain this key individual CEP supports the ERC recommendation that the School pursue Security of Employment (SOE) status for this position to ensure stability of the curriculum. Ladder-rank faculty involvement is vital to any major. The tenured faculty teach an UD elective. There is one senior faculty member assigned to the program. The director is affiliated with another department. There are three assistant professors. A search is underway for a new senior faculty member who would become the Chair of the program.

Theater Arts: The ERC encouraged Theater Arts (TA) to develop a common vision. They recommended that TA cut back on some activities and determine what can be properly done with existing resources. The ERC found it problematic that the student productions lacked faculty advising. They recommended that TA monitor student learning outcomes and ensure effective faculty advising. TA is interested in offering a Master of Arts program in addition to the current fifth-year program. The ERC recommended that the department have a retreat to work out their issues. CEP would like to know the results of the recent retreat. CEP will ask TA to describe its self-vision. It needs to be clear, and all faculty should be included in developing that voice. CEP thinks that it is desirable to include their continuing lecturers as well. Supervision over student productions and integration of those productions into the rest of the curriculum should be raised as issues for discussion. This is a long-standing issue that needs to be addressed. The value of advising needs to be supported by the faculty and should be given adequate recognition in performance reviews.

Last year TA restructured their curriculum after a couple years of faculty disagreement. The change is presently untested. CEP wants the department to lay out educational goals for the curriculum.

The ERC expressed concerns over TA's relationship with DANM. CEP thinks that it is critical that the division and departments work together to fix the curricular relationship between DANM and TA. The ERC and administration also expressed concerns over TA's relationship with Shakespeare Santa Cruz (SSC). CEP thinks that it is critical for TA and SSC to work together to evolve successful strategies and to minimize competition for instructional space and departmental staff resources.

### **III. UOEAP Business Plan.**

The UC President requested that there be a reduction in dependency by the Education Abroad Program (EAP) on general funds. To do so a business plan for the University Office of EAP (UOEAP) was created and is being vet through the Academic Senate. The plan changes the

major course of revenue for EAP, proposes cuts in costs, and increases in student fees. Location-based fees will adjust upward for the cost of certain EAP programs. The plan calls for more than a tripling of student-based revenue without an increase in student numbers.

Funds for student FTE-count have been going to UOEAP. The campuses have been receiving the student fees. The change would give the student FTE count funds to the campuses. UOEAP would get the registration and education fees paid by student. The charts in the plan were found to be misleading because some of the money will be redirected elsewhere. The impact on students is not clear from the business plan provided to the Senate for comment.

Toward the end of the document it is noted that variational fees will be charged by site and not by what students can afford. The cost to attend some sites will rise quickly to amounts that would shut out many students. The Great Cities Program was pulled out because it was a major contributor to the current, significant UOEAP deficit. The \$1M decrease in aid to student is troubling as is the reduction of field officers (to be replaced by local people). The amount that would be retained for the central Santa Barbara Office was not found to be well defended in the plan when compared with the impact on participants due to cost and reduced on-site faculty support.

The impact on other things supported by student fee funds is not discussed in the document. Reciprocity students appear to be an undocumented challenge.

Discussion of this business plan will continue at a future meeting.

#### **IV. General education workshops.**

The November 14 brown bag workshop was deemed a success. There was a good conversation regarding topics related to possible changes to the current Ethnic requirement as a part of the general education reform project. Interest was expressed to separate race and ethnicities from exposure to cultures outside the U.S. and for the focus on race and ethnicity to be constructed along with other forms of inequality such as gender and sexuality or privilege and power.

Members volunteered to draft text for CEP to consider for the next version of a GE reform proposal

#### **V. Disciplinary Communication Legislation.**

Further discussion of legislation for a disciplinary communication requirement was carried forward to a future meeting.

So attests,

Jaye Padgett, Chair  
Committee on Educational Policy