

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY  
MINUTES**

**March 31, 2010**

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

Present: Holly Cordova (NSTF Rep), Cormac Flanagan, Pam Hunt-Carter (Registrar, *ex officio*), Jimin Lee, Roxanne Monnet (Staff), Matthew Palm (SUA Rep), Eric Porter, Deanna Shemek (Provost Rep), John Tamkun (Chair), Peter Young, Eileen Zurbriggen.

Guests: Margie Claxton (Associate Registrar), Elaine Kihara (Academic Preceptor Designee), Bill Ladusaw (VPDUE), Barbara Love (Articulation Officer), Michael McCawley (Associate Director of Admissions).

**I.A. Announcements and updates.**

Chair Tamkun apprised CEP of the recent SEC meeting at which the proposal to make narrative evaluations optional was discussed. The proposal related only to undergraduates. Whether to propose something different for graduate students will be considered in time for the May Senate meeting. The Committee on Academic Personnel (CAP) was asked by the EVC to respond to a draft policy on faculty retention. The UC retirement system and proposed changes will be discussed in future meetings.

An issue with spring enrollment for undergraduates was raised. There appears to be a higher rate of student withdrawal from the University this quarter because they could not get into enough classes to be full time, leaving some students short of the financial aid minimum credits. This is particularly an issue for students who may have been dropped from a spring enrollment due to failed prerequisites in winter quarter, finding a lack of available courses for which they qualify at this late date. Some instructors are turning non-enrolled students away from the start with such comments as “if you are not a senior or a major, or not already on my wait list—leave”. CEP expressed strong concern about what the picture will look like for fall. VPDUE Bill Ladusaw indicated that a recent look at what is in the Campus Curriculum and Leave Plan (CCLP) shows that capacity is quite variable, suggesting differing departmental strategies for cost saving. The administration is working to clean up CCLP by mid-April. There is a need to get word out to departments and divisions that, while it may be logical that faculty would want to reduce capacity as a way to save money and time, doing so further reduces UCSC’s state funding. Members asked whether there would be return of funds for students who could not get in to enough classes to be full-time or whether there are part-time options for these students. Registrar Hunt-Carter indicated that UCOP needs to consider whether there can be a part-time program.

**I.B. Community studies faculty reports.**

CEP was provided with a majority report from the faculty of the Community Studies Department, as well as a minority report. Since one of the letters was marked confidential, CEP will not share its content unless permission to do so is received. The proposals demonstrated the

severe instability of the current degree program--both for the curriculum and for the faculty oversight for degree requirements such as the field study program. CEP became aware of the potential instability of this degree more than a year ago and encouraged the department, division, and administration to form a sustainable resolution. Unfortunately, the proposals have not reached the point of sustainability and there is no more time to redevelop it before the fall 2010 admissions deadlines occur. Instead, the primary foci of the reports are teach-out plans, rather than creatively and successfully planning of the future for the Major.

CEP's primary concern is that the declared and nearly-declared majors get the curriculum they need to graduate and that no further admits enter the program until it is clear that they will have a solid curriculum to complete the major in the allotted time.

The Committee found that there was no other satisfactory choice at this time other than to suspend the major since no sustainable plan for either the short- or long-term was provided. Suspension at this time would stop the ability to admit more students until the future of the program is resolved. Members voted unanimously to suspend the Community Studies Major for two years, and to develop a thoughtful teach-out plan for current Majors as well as those who would have been declaring by the early April deadline (those who have completed a CMMU 100 course). The decision to suspend was based on concern about the apparent fracturing of the faculty, causing the lack of a clear ability to mount the degree.

More consideration of the proposed teach out plans is needed and the fall admissions deadline is fast approaching. CEP decided that the most responsible thing to do, given the lack of a viable plan from the department, was to get the word out to prospective students now that this major was not likely to be available to them (since the suspension would be for two years and students will need to have selected a major in that time).

During the period of suspension, CEP will work with the faculty, administration, dean, and, as appropriate, other Senate committees to determine next steps for Community Studies. The timing of this decision is important in order to provide responsible information to prospective students before their SIR deadline.

CEP discussed the possible impact on transfer students. Since there are no articulation agreements for CMMU 100 courses at the community college, students have been unable to begin the major before entering UCSC.

CEP wanted a student-centered approach on how to handle the timing of the announcement of the suspension such as a direct correspondence to all majors and prospective majors (those who are in or have completed a CMMU 100 course and have not yet declared). Students need to understand that merely higher enrollment numbers will not solve the immediate issues for this program. Chair Tamkun will proceed to discuss communication of CEP's decision with Vice Provost and Dean for Academic Affairs (VPDAA) Alison Galloway.

VPDAA Galloway will meet with Community Studies faculty on April 21 to discuss their teach-out plans. CEP wants to give input to the plan for who will be able to get into the remaining

admission spaces for the next two years and will ask VPDAAGalloway to pass on to the faculty the need for a proposal. CEP will be given the opportunity to provide feedback to those plans.

CEP expressed concern about the overall campus issue of declining resources and reduction of support for EOP students and students having academic difficulty. One idea is for members to attend a divisional council of chairs meeting to discuss the situation of capacity issues which are increasingly affecting retention at the same time that UCSC is required to enroll a certain number of student in order not to have state funding reduced further.

## **II. UCPB Paper on Differential Fees**

In fall 2009 the Senate reviewed a Presidential proposal that the University establish differential fees by major for upper-division business and engineering students. The UC Committee on Planning and Budget (UCPB) developed a white paper to begin a conversation about the issues surrounding differential fees and increasing reliance on non-resident tuition, since proposals involving both likely will emerge from the Working Groups of the UC Commission on the Future.

CEP discussed the paper and is in agreement with the points made in the report, a number of which were raised in CEP's December 2009 letter.

## **III. SEC proposal to revise SCR 9.2.**

Members discussed the draft response to the Senate Executive Committee's (SEC) proposal to make narrative evaluations for undergraduates optional (SCR 9.2). With minor text changes, the letter was approved for sending. CEP voted to endorse the proposal with a vote of 6 to 1.

## **IV. GE topics.**

CEP was updated on progress toward review of general education (GE) proposals. The consent agenda of proposals was accepted.

Last week the text for a letter to departments with questions on PR-S proposals was confirmed. Members were asked to develop similar letters for their designated GEs, focusing on key issues for the specific to that designation.

## **V. Disciplinary Communication proposals.**

The disciplinary communication proposals on today's agenda have been carried forward to a future agenda due to lack of time.

## **VI. Language program post-consultation discussion.**

Further discussion has been carried forward regarding the March consultation with Language Program Chair Shigeko Okamoto and Professor of History Mark Cioc who has been asked to work with the department on their curriculum planning.

**VII. Catalog topics.**

Concern was expressed about the scope of issues raised in this year's program statements, many of which did not include justifications for the requests or data. CEP will discuss program statements by division in April.

All other catalog topics for this meeting were carried forward due to lack of time.

So attest,

John Tamkun, Chair  
Committee on Educational Policy