

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
MINUTES**

May 19, 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), Michael McCawley (Associate Director of Admissions).

I. Announcements and updates.

At the upcoming Senate Meeting, Chair Tamkun will give an oral report on this year's work toward the new general education (GE) requirements, effective fall 2010. The Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) discussed with him the content for that report. The number of proposals, status of reviews, and capacity estimates will be included.

CEP voted to set the catalog year for entering junior level transfer students to 2008-09 and to add an exception clause in the Catalog rights policy to make clear in the future that CEP may decide similarly.

The Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid would like a CEP representative to meet with them on the topic of honors this term, if possible. In light of CEP's unusually heavy workload this year, there were no volunteers. CEP will respond that there will not be a CEP representative available this year.

An enhanced grading proposal is expected to be raised at the Senate Meeting. This would effect another change to SCR 9.2 on written evaluations. CEP would like to have had the opportunity to weigh in on the idea ahead of the meeting. The CEP Chair will comment at the meeting that they did not have a chance to review it.

II. Compendium.

The Compendium response will be finalized and sent this week.

III. Education External Review.

In preparation for the upcoming closure meeting, CEP discussed the recent external review of the Education Department. Education, by state law, does not offer an undergraduate major. They do offer two minors, one that is quite large. Since their last review they have had a new minor approved (STEM). The department is also very active with the education related majors and concentrations offered by other departments, including the three that were approved by CEP last

year (Earth Sciences education concentration, Biology education concentration, and Physics Education Major). The External Review Committee (ERC) gave basically no feedback to undergraduate education in its report. The department also did not address undergraduate education. It does not appear that the ERC met with any undergraduates. At the closure meeting the CEP representative will ask how they are getting student feedback from the minors, and what feedback they can give to CEP on the recently approved degrees and concentrations related to education. CEP would like to know how, if approved, the School of Education would enhance undergraduate education. CEP wondered whether there could be a better transitional opportunity for students to move into the credential program, and whether this may be a way to improve their minority student representation.

The letter will be finalized by email.

IV. Arts FTE transfer request.

After providing information and answering questions, Member Lee recused herself. It was noted that the art faculty member requesting the FTE transfer was to teach three Disciplinary Communication courses for the Art Department after 2010-11. The loss of the position will be difficult for the department given this loss to the curriculum. The professor's reasons for wanting the transfer to History of Arts and Visual Culture (HAVC) has to do with his scholarly activities that will be enhanced by joining HAVC. Critical mass in his area did not form in the Art Department since his hire. CEP noted the significant concerns raised by the Art Department about their need to develop a plan for 2011-12 for maintaining their curriculum and will recommend that they resolve the long-term curricular plan now. Perhaps there could be an MOU beyond one year. CEP supported the request, with that one concern.

V. Community Studies.

The Committee reviewed the proposed teach-out plan for the Community Studies major for the two-year suspension. Our overall impression of the department's proposal is favorable. Since no changes to major requirements were proposed, CEP focused its attention on the following issues related to the capacity of the program.

According to the department, approximately 120 continuing students intend to declare the Community Studies major next year. Based on the assumption that some of these students will change their plans due to the lingering uncertainty regarding the future of the major, the department will offer five CMMU100A-Z courses in 2010-11, each limited to between 20 and 23 students. This plan seems reasonable, but the department must be prepared to increase the number or capacity of their gateway course offerings if interest in the program proves to be greater than anticipated.

Community Studies has not been formally recognized as a resource-impacted major. CEP was therefore puzzled by the department's claim that students must routinely "compete" for the limited seats available in CMMU100A-Z courses. The CMMU100A-Z application process should not be used to restrict the entry of qualified students into the major. The committee

supports its continued use as an advising tool to help students identify the gateway course and field-study experience best suited to their interests.

At the time the major was suspended, CEP was concerned that prospective students might accept offers of admission to UCSC based on the erroneous assumption that they would be able pursue a degree in Community Studies. The Committee therefore felt that applicants should be informed about the suspension of the major without delay. Once a transfer student accepts an offer of admission, they should be treated no differently than any other student. CEP therefore will encourage the department to accommodate fall transfer students who previously expressed an interest in the Community Studies major and will be able to complete their degree before the end of the teach-out period. This should not place an unacceptable burden on the department given the small number of students who fall into this category.

The department presented several reasonable options for maintaining the academic oversight of the field studies program with the diminished resources at their disposal. If the current field studies coordinator does not continue beyond January 1, 2011, his successor should be recruited as soon as possible to ensure a smooth transfer of their responsibilities and maintain the quality of the program.

CEP had significant reservations about the limited number of upper-division electives that will be offered by Community Studies during the final two years of the teach-out plan. Community Studies majors are required to take one upper-division “directed” elective in each of four different areas. Students choose these upper-division electives from a list of approved courses, the majority of which are taught by other departments. In response to feedback provided by CEP in June of 2009, majors are now required to take at least two directed-electives offered by Community Studies.

The department states that upper-division electives will “be heavily designated to other departments”. Furthermore, they assume that classes taught by Community Studies faculty after they transfer to other departments will be acceptable upper-division electives for the major. It seems premature to draw any conclusions about the content of courses that will be taught by former members of the department before the transfer of their FTE is negotiated and approved. Furthermore, it is not clear that other departments will be willing and able to compensate for the reduced number of upper-division electives offered by Community Studies. Until these issues are resolved, the department needs to be prepared to offer additional upper-division directed electives in both 2011-12 and 2012-13.

CEP approved the Community Studies teach-out plan with the conditions noted above. The Committee will ask that they provide a follow-up report to CEP by April 2011, in which they should also include their vision for the post-suspension future of the degree. CEP remains hopeful that it will be possible to restore the viability of this important and highly valued program.

VI. Disqualification policy and requests.

CEP began its discussion of the standing CEP major disqualification policy and this year's requests. In April, CEP wrote to major sponsoring units to let them know that the Committee could not approve requests related to resource impaction until there was an accepted impaction policy, and indicated that pedagogically based requests would be considered as time allowed.

For this year's requests, CEP will work within the standing policy. If the Committee found as part of the discussion that they wanted to go beyond what was in the policy, they would proceed to update the policy. An item for future discussion is whether to add to the policy the limitation that disqualification policies may not disqualify students past a certain point in their academic career, such as the senior year at least.

Linguistics and Language Studies: The change merely reflects the renumbering of the course on which the current policy is based. The request was approved.

CEP supported changes that will bring the department closer to CEP's recommended policy or make the disqualification policy less stringent.

Mathematics: The current Math policy involved not passing the same class more than once. This is likely to extend the time by which students struggling with the material would be disqualified. The proposed policy involves not passing two courses from a list of required courses. CEP found this to be a preferable policy in that the affected students will seek other majors sooner. The request was approved.

Psychology: The department requested to remove PSYC 3 from the disqualification policy. The course was changed to the upper-division and students will take it too late to be appropriate for disqualification. The request was approved.

Earth Sciences: The request by Earth Sciences was approved at an earlier meeting, pending confirmation of an appeals policy.

Sociology: The department made clear that their request was resource based. CEP feels that it cannot be approved at this time. The department may resubmit the requests after the administration, divisions, and Senate have reached agreement on a definition for impaction.

Chemistry: The department appeared to be under the impression that the disqualification policy passed in recent years for the Chemistry Major also applied to the BMB major. However, in reviewing the back documentation, that is not the case. The BMB Major is akin to a combined major. CEP is not willing to approve the request at this time. If the department would like to submit it for further consideration, it will need to include a justification specific to this major. It is too late for further consideration this year. CEP was unwilling to approve this specific request in that it contained a course that is recommended for the senior year in the posted planner for BMB majors.

CEP found that requests to apply the disqualification policy of another major to their major to be problematic, in that there is not a built-in process of consultation when a department changes its disqualification policy. In the case of combined majors, both departments need to give their

support to the proposed changes. The Committee recommended that these policies be individual to the major, clearly stated in the catalog, and preferable list specific courses.

Environmental studies: CEP favors disqualification policies that identify students who are unlikely to succeed in a major as early as possible in their academic career (see http://senate.ucsc.edu/cep/cepdisqual_policyJune08.pdf). CEP therefore approved the request to add AMS 2 or 3 or Math 3; AMS 7/L to the disqualification policy for Environmental Studies Majors; and one of the approved introductory requirements in anthropology, sociology, or ethics. CEP did not approve the request to disqualify students based on grades earned in courses substituted for introductory ENVIS courses (e.g. CHEM1A instead of ENVIS23). This decision was based on the limited evidence that performance in introductory courses offered by other departments is a good predictor of success in your majors. In the current disqualification policy, the department “reserve[s] the right to disqualify from the major students who fail three or more upper-division environmental studies electives courses or exit requirements.” Since this policy already conflicts with CEP’s guidelines, the Committee did not approve that it be changed from three to two. Since CEP was unwilling to approve this request, the department may wish to consider retaining ENVIS100/L as one of the “introductory” classes covered by the disqualification policies. This seems appropriate given that students take this class relatively early in their academic careers.

CEP will draw the department’s attention to SCR A9.1.8 which could reduce or eliminate the need to add upper-division courses to your disqualification policies. This regulation states that the “repetition of a course more than once requires approval of the student's college.” CEP believes that this policy should be strictly enforced. Students who repeatedly fail the same course should be encouraged to pursue fields of study in which they are more likely to be successful. It seems to CEP that what the department is attempting to achieve with the revised disqualification policies could be achieved by enforcement of this regulation.

CEP felt that several of the proposed changes to the disqualification policy for Environmental Studies/Economics combined major were consistent with both the Committee’s guidelines and the policies used to disqualify students from Environmental Studies other combined majors. Therefore CEP approved the addition of Economics 1, 2, 11A, 11B to the disqualification policy for the Environmental Studies/Economics combined major. CEP did not approve the request to disqualify students who earn a minimum 2.8 average GPA in Economics 1 and 2 due to the lack of evidence that a GPA below 2.8 is a reliable predictor of poor performance in the ENVIS/ECON combined major. CEP noted that this request appears to be drawn from the Economics major admissions policy--not their disqualification policy. The department may wish to consider instituting distinct admissions and disqualifications policies for your majors at some point in the future. The Committee approved the request to disqualify students from the combined ENVIS/ECON major based on failing grades in three upper-division ENVIS or ECON courses numbered 100 or above since this change is consistent with the existing disqualification policies for your other majors. As discussed above, the department may wish to consider adding ENVIS100/L to the introductory ECON and ENVIS courses listed in your disqualification policy for the combined major. In summary, CEP approved the following disqualification policy for the ENVIS/ECON combined major: “There are eight introductory requirements for the Environmental Studies/Economics Combined Major: ENVIS23, 24, and 25; Economics 1, 2, 11A, 11B; and one of Anthropology 2 or

Philosophy 21, 22, 24, 28, or 80G or Sociology 1 or 15. A student who either (1) fails two of these required courses, or (2) fails one required course twice, will be disqualified from the major. The department also reserves the right to disqualify from the combined major students who fail three or more upper-division environmental studies or economics elective courses numbered 100 or above.”

The appeals policy that provided looks fine. CEP will indicate that the approval of the changes to the disqualification policies are based on the assumption that no student will be disqualified or denied access to the majors based solely on grades earned prior to the fall 2010.

Bioengineering Major: No justification was provided with the request to change the disqualification policy for the Bioengineering Major. The proposed policy could lead to disqualification of seniors. The Committee found that they could not approve the request without more information.

Information Systems Management (ISM) Major: CEP approved that program publish the School of Engineering disqualification policy in their program statement. The policy was approved in an earlier year.

The balance of the disqualification policy discussions were carried forward to a future meeting.

VII. Disciplinary Communication and Catalog topics.

The response to the Economics DC proposal will be finalized by email and sent this week.

The stretch courses proposals for the College 9 and Oakes College core courses were approved. The requests for Pass/No Pass only status for the first quarter were also approved. The stretch course format for the college core courses allows students more time to focus on doing well in their required writing curriculum (ELWR, C1, and C1).

It was approved that History of Arts and Visual Culture change the configuration of their upper-division requirements as requested.

VIII. SUA survey.

Discussion of the SUA student survey was carried forward due to lack of time.

So attest,

John Tamkun, Chair
Committee on Educational Policy