

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY  
MINUTES**

**January 6, 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, John Tamkun (Chair), Peter Young, Eileen Zurbriggen (Chair, pro tem).

Absent: Michael Morrissey (SUA Rep), a provost representative has not yet begun to meet with CEP.

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

**I. Announcements and Minutes.**

Member Zurbriggen will serve as chair pro tem when John Tamkun is on jury duty, if necessary.

The October 14 minutes were accepted as written.

**II. External Review Closure Meeting Updates.**

Designated members apprised CEP on the external review closure meetings for the Departments of Feminist Studies and History, and the Legal Studies degree program.

Feminist Studies: The department will start teaching FMST 1 with a revised structure next year. The course will have rotating instructors who may have a slightly different foci. CEP asked for a status report on FMST 1 in the mid-cycle review. An affiliated faculty member may be appointed as department chair starting in July. The Ph.D. program is not going to happen for the time being.

History: The department was found to be in relatively good shape; however, the European history concentration is at risk. Most faculty member involved in the concentration are expected to retire in the next few years. They have nearly stopped admitting graduate students in this area, which has created a lack of qualified teaching assistants (TA). There did not appear to be a well-conceived plan for the future of this area of the curriculum. In response to the poor quality of discussion sections noted by undergraduate students, graduate student training was raised in the External Review Committee's (ERC) report. In the closure meeting the History department chair spoke of improving the professional training course and working with the center for teacher training to resolve this issue. They also plan to have more experienced TAs mentor the more junior. CEP wondered whether the structure of the history major was adequate. It is heavy in electives which is a concern to some of the department's faculty. At present it is possible to take all upper-division requirements in a similar region of the world, of a similar time frame. History may establish a foundation series for the first courses taken at the upper-division. The courses could be designed to add structural rigor and to create a common group of courses that all

students would take. The group discussed whether the interdisciplinary majors and minors are negatively impacting the history major. The department does not think that this is an issue, with the exception of Jewish Studies where there is more demand on the faculty to provide courses. The department needs to work through the conflict over resources for the Jewish Studies courses.

Legal Studies: There seemed to be little enthusiasm among the affiliated faculty to chair the Legal Studies degree program. If the degree were discontinued, students with interests in this area would want to pursue a politics major which means that there would not be a significant cost savings to the department. However, the department feels the need to make a change in this area in order to have more faculty time and resources going toward their fairly new Ph.D. program. One idea that CEP suggested was for a Legal Studies track to the Politics major. The department was also encouraged to suspend the degree for a year or two rather than discontinuing it or perhaps to keep it in skeletal form so that if the resource picture improves soon the degree can easily be reactivated. The department has not reached a decision as to whether to propose discontinuation but that was the leaning at the end of the meeting.

### **III. General Education Topics.**

An excel spreadsheet will be circulated by email listing all current General Education (GE) courses and new GE designations requests, most of which are for existing courses.

Given the proposals received, it appeared to CEP that all science majors will satisfy the Scientific Inquiry (SI) designation through courses that they take as preparation to their major. The course sponsoring units who proposed SI courses did so on their lower-division courses, rather than on upper-division courses as is allowed under the new GE regulations. The two largest campus majors will have their SI requirement satisfied by the proposals that have been submitted, as well as a number of smaller majors. Although there appears to be a shortfall of about 2300 seats, based on the need for 3500 seats, only one-fourth of the students will be on the new GE requirements during 2010-11, given UCSC up to four years to reach the capacity needed. CEP will talk to the units who submitted proposals to determine whether they could increase the number of students that they accommodate.

By email over coming week, members will be assigned a particular GE designation for which to identify one or two proposals that seem to meet the educational goals of the requirement, one that does not come close, and one with issues that may help to further define what the committee should look for in the proposals for that designation. These sample proposals will be discussed at upcoming meetings.

### **IV. Capacity and Enrollment Issues.**

Chair Tamkun apprised CEP of several budget related communications that recently occurred. The Community Studies Department response on how to manage their budget cuts was received. In their response, they indicated the plan to cut the number of gateway courses in order to have fewer majors. A minority report was also submitted that commented on the majority report from the department. Writing Program Chair Elizabeth Abrams wrote to Chair Tamkun regarding the impact of budget cuts to the Writing Program. Chair Tamkun received email from the Language Program regarding the impact of the budget cuts that they think will prohibit their ability to meet the current courses needed for some majors. CEP also received a copy of a letter from the Social Sciences dean asking the departments in that division to begin developing enrollment plans to be effective fall 2010 which would reduce the cost

of the curriculum significantly. Following receipt of these communications Chair Tamkun spoke with the Senate Chair. He also met with Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education (VPDUE) Ladusaw, Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) chair, the Vice Provost and Dean for Academic Affairs, and the Senate chair and Senate vice chair to discuss what to do to ensure that students may complete their degrees in a timely fashion, despite budgetary shortfalls.

Limiting enrollments in courses or majors by virtue of the number of course offerings or other ways not reviewed by the administration and relevant Senate committees eliminates the ability to plan well for these students and new admits. A communication from VPDAAD Ladusaw and Chair Tamkun reaffirming to major sponsoring units the need to consult with CEP will be sent shortly. A copy of the letter was included in a packet set to the committee by Chair Tamkun by email, along with the other above mentioned letters. CEP will continue to work with the administration and other Senate committees to give guidance to the campus on enrollment management topics.

CEP recognized the need to review again the previously approved admissions restrictions on majors to determine whether the affected majors continue to be impacted and whether the limits in place have served to meet the issues for which the restrictions were put in place. When time permits the Committee will consider what information is needed from units to conduct these reviews.

The Committee recognized the need to remind the campus community that each UC campus is required to teach a certain number of students annually and that to not teach these students will mean a further reduction in state funding. The result of being required to teach the same number of students with significantly less funding would seem to be that the quality of a UC degree may suffer in order to provide the necessary capacity. Until UC's enrollment targets are reduced by the legislation, UCSC cannot afford to lose more of its state budget. Already, due to a lack of sufficient variety of courses at each level, some students are forced to take courses for which they are not prepared or that were not what they had planned to take toward their degree.

CEP supported Chair Tamkun's plan to continue working outside of meetings on enrollment management topics in order to keep them moving forward as quickly as possible.

## **V. Catalog Topics.**

The Computer Engineering and Electrical Engineering Departments have requested that students who double major in Computer Engineering and Electrical Engineering be permitted to complete one senior capstone for the two degrees. The departments would like to make this option available to students starting spring 2010. The proposal is for a two-quarter, 12 credit capstone. CEP's standing guidelines for double counting of courses indicate that exceptions to the one capstone per major rule would need to be sufficiently interdisciplinary to be appropriate for each of the majors. CEP found the proposed capstone to be sufficiently interdisciplinary for these two majors and that the capstone proposed could achieve the departments' goals for their learning outcomes. The request was approved.

CEP's guidelines for such exceptions focus on making the overlapping capstone option available for all students taking those majors, not for individual student petitions. However, the guidelines and regulations allow departments to approve course substitutions.

**VI. Closed week and reading days.**

Discussion of the letter from VPDUE Ladusaw on reading days and non-podium instructional days was carried forward due to lack of time.

So attests,

John Tamkun, Chair  
Committee on Educational Policy