

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY  
MINUTES**

**January 13, 2010**

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

Present: Holly Cordova (NSTF Rep), Cormac Flanagan, Jimin Lee, Roxanne Monnet (Staff), Eric Porter, Deanna Shemek (Provost Representative), John Tamkun (Chair), Peter Young.

Absent: Pam Hunt-Carter (Registrar, *ex officio*), Michael Morrissey (SUA Rep), Matthew Palm (SUA Rep), 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).

**Executive Session 11-11:15 a.m.**

During executive session, members voted to reinvite the following standing guests for winter and spring quarters 2010: Margie Claxton (Associate Registrar for Publications and Scheduling), Elaine Kihara (College Academic Preceptor Designee), Bill Ladusaw (Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education), Barbara Love (Articulation Officer), and Michael McCawley (Associate Director of Admissions).

**I. Announcements and updates.**

Representatives to the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) and the above mentioned guests joined the meeting at 11:15. The guests were re-invited for the balance of the academic year and thanked for their contributions.

Provost Representative Deanna Shemek was introduced.

CEP was reminded of the upcoming Faculty Research Lecture to be given by Professor Dan Friedman.

The Committee was also informed of Campus Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor David Kliger's intent to retire effective July 1.

Chair Tamkun reminded CEP of his meeting with the Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) on January 21 to discuss capacity and enrollment management topics.

**II. General Education Topics.**

Members discussed the process for review of general education (GE) proposals. It is anticipated that all Disciplinary Communication (DC) proposals will be reviewed in CEP meetings since these are akin to establishment of new Major requirements--although the DC is technically a GE requirement--and changes to Major requirements are reviewed in CEP meetings rather than by the subcommittees.

Members were designated to review proposals for at least one GE designation to identify a few proposals for review in full committee for discussion in upcoming weeks. After full committee discussion of a subset of proposals to calibrate Committee understanding, it is anticipated that review of proposals will move to a subset of the voting members who will put forward a recommendation on a consent agenda, indicating those that may warrant discussion in full committee before a decision is issued.

Some proposals submitted asked for two designations. CEP has reminded those departments that no more than one designation will be approved, as discussed in fall minutes. CEP will give feedback on which of the proposed designations seems most appropriate to the content of the course, and in some cases may ask the department to select one, perhaps based on campus capacity needs or in order to give a balance of curricular offerings through the department.

The topic of putting GEs on Majors rather than on specific courses was raised again this year. It appears that the GE requirement regulation would need changing since it specifies that a specific number of credits must be satisfied per requirement. There are some other potential obstacles that would need to be resolved as well. CEP was not inclined to put forward legislation to change the GEs further at this time. The topic was tabled for now.

CEP held an initial discussion of a few Scientific Inquiry (SI) proposals. The content and justification for the GE designation were discussed. A more in-depth discussion will happen next week. The Committee discussed their concerns about capacity for this designation. Applied Math and Statistics (AMS) indicated that they could accommodate approximately 1800 students per year. CEP expressed appreciation for their willingness to accommodate this significant number of students. CEP will give feedback to AMS on the demand that there is likely to be for their courses next year and will ask whether they are able to increase their capacity for the SI designation.

### **III. Closed week and reading days.**

CEP discussed with Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education (VPDUE) Ladusaw his letter on reading days and non-podium instructional days.

Some years ago, UC Berkeley (UCB) proposed to start the semester after Labor Day and to shorten the number of days in the academic year from 146 to 140 (3 days per semester). The goal was on having time between classes and finals, for students to prepare for their exams. Reduction to 140 days was not approved at that time. This past summer, UCB proposed 3 days of non-podium instructional days between class and finals. Again, this idea provided a better time period for students to prepare for finals. UCB's proposal was adopted and not for reasons of the UC faculty/staff furlough of 2009-10. Theirs was an on-going request. UCB faculty member are expected to be available through office hours during those days and possibly to provide review sessions.

CEP members agreed that there should be at least one day between presentation of course material and testing, at a minimum. Students need time to read and study. Faculty are expected to be available to them for questions prior to testing. It was suggested that UCSC students do not thrive in finals as do

students on some other campuses, perhaps because the campus does not create a certain environment for exam week such as exists elsewhere.

#### **IV. Capacity Topics and Enrollment Management.**

Little or no information was provided with GE course proposals regarding the intended number of seats to be offered for that course, and almost no one responded to the request sent by email for information on capacity planning. The effort to gather capacity projections for the SI proposals proved to be too time consuming to do for the other designations. Thus, only very rough numbers can be pulled together until departments begin to use the new curriculum and leave planning database.

Senate leadership and administration have begun a conversation on how to deal with capacity issues. Chair Tamkun will be involved in these discussions.

So attests,

John Tamkun, Chair  
Committee on Educational Policy