

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
MINUTES**

October 21, 2009

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

Present: Cormac Flanagan, Pam Hunt-Carter (Registrar, *ex officio*), Jimin Lee, Roxanne Monnet (Staff), Michael Morrissey (SUA Rep), Peter Young, Eileen Zurbriggen (Chair, pro tem).

Absent: Holly Cordova (NSTF Rep), Matthew Palm (SUA Rep) Eric Porter, John Tamkun (Chair).

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

I. Announcements and updates.

Monday's Special Senate Meeting was reviewed for the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP). The meeting was well attended. Three Resolutions passed, one of which was submitted from the floor and asked that certain instructional days be changed to non-classroom instructional days during which faculty could take furlough days. Two other Resolutions from the floor were tabled. One Resolution asked that lower-paid and new faculty be compensated for the salary loss due to furlough requirements. The other Resolution would censure the UC president and reflected the text of the resolution that recently passed at UC Santa Barbara (UCSB). The Senate preferred that UCSC write its own for consideration at a future Senate Meeting. The two Resolutions that did not get discussed on Monday due to lack of time will be on the October 28 Senate Meeting agenda. The above mentioned Resolution on instructional days was discussed by CEP. The Senators sponsoring the Resolution want the UC President to accept the Senate feedback given over the summer, including allowance that some faculty furlough days occur on instructional days.

Yesterday's Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meeting was reviewed by Chair Pro Tem Zurbriggen who attended in the absence of Chair Tamkun. Some SEC members suggested a forum for further discussion of the two resolutions that were tabled at the October 19 meeting. A SEC subcommittee will consider the censure resolution prior to next Senate Meeting. The Academic Council rejected the legitimacy of the Commission on the Future of the University (aka the Gould Commission). They feel that this is a matter for the Senate not the administration. The membership of the commission includes faculty from professional schools. There is concern that the membership of the commission does not reflect the broad body of the University faculty. SEC approved their consultation statement. A Senator has requested that a special meeting or forum be called to discuss the educational mission of the University in light of the budget crisis, hoping for statements of solidarity among the faculty in support of the student mission. SEC will consider this idea further.

II. External reviews pre-review feedback.

During today's discussion of external reviews, CEP restated their interest in gathering information on Majors and courses through student evaluations.

Applied Math and Statistics (AMS) Department: This is the first review for AMS as a department. The AMS Minor was initiated in 2008. There is a proposal for a BS under consideration by CEP presently. The faculty have a highly interdisciplinary approach to teaching and research. They feel that they are at capacity and implied that they would need to provide seats for more or all UCSC students to satisfy the new Statistical Reasoning requirement. The department would like to grow by four to five faculty members over the next few years. A proposal for a research institution is also under consideration. VPDAAGalloway has asked how they will balance their teaching and research goals in light of limited resources. CEP would like to know whether, in the opinion of the external reviewers, the contributions of the Applied Mathematics and Statistics Department to lower-division mathematics courses are effective and well-coordinated with the Mathematics Department. The department self-study did not include a student satisfaction survey. CEP presumes that the External Review Committee will be meeting with students pursuing a minor in Applied Mathematics or Statistics, and CEP requests that the Committee assess student satisfaction with the minor.

Biomolecular Engineering (BME) Department: BME currently has approximately fifty undergraduate students in the bachelor's degree and minor. The first cohort of five students graduated this year. The department mentioned the idea for a "chemistry for engineers" series which would focus more specifically on the needs of this major and would change the current requirement from two years to one year. The department self-study notes a significant reduction in applications to the bioinformatics major, coincident with the introduction of the new bioengineering major. CEP would like to ask the External Review Committee to evaluate the relationship between these two majors, and to provide general advice about the future development of these two programs.

Digital Arts and New Media (DANM) Program: DANM is a graduate program. This is the first external review for DANM. The program is interdisciplinary and voluntary. It holds no faculty FTE. Members are drawn from three divisions; within the Art division, members are drawn from most departments. Given the program's current institutional structure, there are a large number of participating faculty that have conflicting and overlapping commitments in co-related undergraduate teaching within their home departments. CEP would like the ERC to consider whether the faculty obligations to the graduate program are limiting the time available to the various undergraduate programs; and how are the apparent disparities in overlapping staffing affecting the faculty morale and teaching effectiveness? The self-study outlines three possibilities for academic restructuring; Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Galloway adds a fourth. CEP would like the ERC to consider how each of these four possible reorganizations would impact undergraduate offerings in digital media. Initially the DANM program was intended to facilitate initiating new courses and to coordinate with the undergraduate digital media curricula. CEP would like the ERC to evaluate how DANM's research and resources contribute to enhancing other departments' curricula within the field of Digital Media Arts. Can the ERC provide an ideal model if there is the possibility of joint graduate and undergraduate classes in digital media? What role can DANM graduate students appropriately play in the home department(s) of the course(s) in which they will serve as teaching assistants?

III. External reviews post review feedback.

Feminist Studies Department: CEP discussed the draft response to the Feminist Studies external review and confirmed it to be ready for sending.

IV. Individual Major Proposals.

New members received an overview of the process for review of undergraduate petitions for individual majors and were reminded that this opportunity is intended for academically-strong students, and not for those who are having difficulty succeeding in an existing major.

V. Issues and topics for 2009-10, and member items.

Members discussed a list of possible issues and tasks for 2009-10 and were asked to bring to the next meeting any additional items that they would suggest be added to the list for the year if time permits.

The meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m.

So attests,

Eileen Zurbriggen, Chair Pro Tem
Committee on Educational Policy