

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY  
MINUTES**

**October 14, 2009**

**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), Michael Morrissey (SUA Rep), Matthew Palm (SUA Rep), Eric Porter, John Tamkun (Chair), Peter Young, Eileen Zurbriggen.

Absent: A provost representative has not yet been assigned to CEP.

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 invite the following standing guests for fall quarter 2009: Margie Claxton (Associate Registrar), Elaine Kihara (Academic Preceptor Designee), Bill Ladusaw (Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education), Barbara Love (Articulation Officer), Michael McCawley (Associate Director of Admissions).

**I. Announcements and updates.**

Member Zurbriggen will serve as chair *pro tem* next week while Chair Tamkun is away.

CEP was informed that the Music Department external review has been deferred one year.

Professor Tyrus Miller will serve as the interim vice provost and dean of graduate studies while a recruitment is conducted.

Chair Tamkun participated in the recent University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) by phone on Monday. SUA Representative Palm is also on UCEP this year. Senate Regulation (SR) 764 which limits the number of special studies credits for undergraduates to 5 credits per term was proposed for rescindment by UCEP. It was raised at UCEP last year at the request of UCSC's CEP. The Senate's Academic Council agreed with the recommendation to rescind and has circulated the proposal to the Divisions of the Academic Senate for comment. The UC campuses will also be asked to respond to the Undergraduate Educational Effectiveness Task Force Report. The UC Office of the President (UCOP) proposal for differential fees was discussed at UCEP. A representative from UCOP academic planning attended UCEP to discuss the proposal. The proposal will be coming to the campuses for comment. It has been removed from the next Regents' meeting agenda but is expected to come up again soon. In response to the Gould Commission Report, the UC Regents formed committees to consider the future of the UC. These committees are expected to make recommendations by March for implementation by

July 2010. Chancellor George Blumenthal is on the subcommittee looking at the size, shape, and structure of the University. It is anticipated that the Academic Senate and Divisions of the Senate will be give the opportunity to comment on the recommendations of these committees. UCEP discussed their on-line education initiative that will go to campuses for comment this fall. The pilot appears to include an expensive start-up cost. UCEP considered and approved Arabic Without Walls as a Universitywide course.

Vice Provost and Dean of Academic Affairs Alison Galloway has asked to meet with CEP regarding University Extension certificate reviews and the external review process. CEP decided to invite her to a fall meeting.

## **II. External reviews.**

Film and Digital Media: CEP discussed the Film and Digital Media (FDM) Department's external review. FDM's relationship with DANM was noted as a challenge in the External Review Committee (ERC) report. In particular, how to maintain a vigorous curriculum at all levels was noted. The department responded that they may reconstruct their curriculum in light of these comments.

In their response to the ERC report, FDM indicated that they do not agree with the ERC regarding perceived issues with their collaboration with the Computer Game Design degree program. The ERC thinks that it is not realistic for them to collaborate with that degree program given their workload and resource limitations. However, FDM faculty see the collaboration as a positive opportunity. The School of Engineering provides the cost and equipment. Theory and practical work from the engineering classes augment the FDM curriculum. Both divisions support continuing their joint efforts.

The group of undergraduates interviewed by the ERC felt deeply supported in their goals and work, and that they were getting a first-class education. The ERC endorsed the department's vision of integrating theory and practice, and was impressed with the efficient operations of the staff and the management of the department as a whole.

The ERC questioned whether the program was focused too much on technical aspects as opposed to creative aspects and raised the issue of whether the GPA requirement is selecting for the ranges of qualities desired for students in FDM. CEP wonders whether the department is monitoring its course prerequisites and major admissions policies in ways that ensure that they are selecting for students with creative potential. In particular, the committee wonders whether a student's GPA in gateway courses provides an accurate measure. The Committee would also like to know whether there is a portfolio review process in place to look at aspects of the students' creative and artistic abilities not reflected in the GPA.

CEP will ask how the department appeal process works for students who pass courses with grades below the required GPA. Since students may not repeat courses for credit when they have received a C or better in a course, slowing their progress toward the degree and taking space that should be available to others, CEP will ask whether the department has considered identifying another class that students would need for the major as one to take for another attempt to meet the GPA threshold.

The equipment needs of the production classes seem a significantly limiting factor on the size of the major, access to which equipment is causing conflict among students. CEP wonders what alternatives the department is considering.

CEP would like to know if there are any specific plans for implementing foundation-level digital media courses to generate student interest in this area equal to the interest in traditional filmmaking.

The ERC pointed out that the current construction of three “pathways” in the major might be better achieved through a different curricular structure that crosses borders to accomplish the vision of integrating theory and practice. With this in mind, CEP wonders how the implementation of the new Ph.D. program, which will be centered on “hybrid” practice, will impact the prospectus revisions in the undergraduate curriculum as was indicated in the department’s response letter which was not entirely articulate on this point.

CEP will congratulate the department for their work on issues of diversity and encourage them to consult with Title IX Officer Rita Walker about their ideas toward this important issue.

History: CEP discussed the external review of the History Department. The ERC report gave a generally favorable assessment of the department, documenting many successes. These include a strong and wide-ranging undergraduate program. In general, students are satisfied with their courses, faculty, and the quality of the major more generally. The ERC report also demonstrated that the department faces some challenges in this budgetary climate as the faculty seek to provide excellent undergraduate and graduate instruction across multiple areas of study.

The ERC report makes clear that the quality of discussion sections for lecture courses is uneven. The report also registers graduate student complaints about the quality of their preparation for the classroom. As the department’s response indicates, some of these problems stem from declining resources. Moreover, several of the ERC’s suggestions for amelioration appear to be unrealistic. The department should continue to think about ways that the quality of instruction and the preparation of teaching assistants might be improved, even under budgetary constraints.

CEP will suggest that the department look carefully at graduate student placements to make sure that teaching assistants are satisfactorily matched with courses and wondered if the expertise of successful teaching assistants might be drawn upon in the training of more junior graduate students. CEP would like the department to consider the Dean’s suggestion that it might move away from standardized enrollments in sections. It could consider teaching larger sections in certain courses to allow that others be smaller and more intensive sections. Learning Support Services could potentially help develop special course sections or tutoring support for students who require more assistance than is available in larger sections.

In stage one of this review, CEP asked about the quality of instruction in the interdisciplinary minors and majors. In response the department questioned whether support for interdisciplinary minors/majors detracted from the history major. The review documented the department’s commendable commitment to improving the regulatory structures of these programs as well as its willingness to continue to house the majors and minors that it does, until the question of placing them in an autonomous interdisciplinary unit is resolved. However the questions of quality and impact on the history major are not substantively

addressed in the review documents. CEP thinks that the department should continue to monitor this situation.

CEP also raised the question of the effectiveness of the undergraduate history major's required distribution of courses among the department's areas of emphasis. This simply was not addressed in the review process. CEP will ask at the closure meeting that there be a means of making this evaluation.

Legal Studies: CEP discussed the documents pertaining to the 2009 ad-hoc external review of the Legal Studies undergraduate program. The ERC returned a very positive assessment of the quality of the program concluded that the Legal Studies Program is "highly meritorious and clearly worth saving". However, both the Politics department and the ERC spoke about the inadequate level of resources currently being allocated to the program, and the need for supplements to these resources to maintain the major.

The Committee found that specific ways in which these difficulties manifest have not been detailed very explicitly. In their response to the charge for the ERC, The Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) asked whether the nature of the burden that administering the Legal Studies major imposes on Politics could be described more explicitly and precisely. The ERC report did not do much to answer this question. For the closure meeting, CEP believes that it would be helpful if the Politics department could provide a more detailed answer to CPB's question.

CEP hopes that some solution can be reached that would allow the major to continue without sacrificing or endangering the Politics major, both of which are popular and of high quality, and will offer the following suggestions for consideration: proposing to severely restrict the Legal Studies major, delivering the Legal Studies curriculum more efficiently, enrollment management for Politics majors (in combination with a severely restricted Legal Studies major), recruiting an affiliated Legal Studies ladder-rank faculty member (not in the Politics department) to step in as Director for a three-year period, or eliminating formal faculty advising for Legal Studies majors, replacing it with peer and staff advising. The Committee is not endorsing any of the above mentioned options, merely offering them for consideration. More data concerning workload issues would seem to be necessary to make appropriate choices.

### **III. Course approval review.**

The current course approval forms were reviewed for members who were asked to look the forms over and to direct questions to the chair via email. Final subcommittee assignments will be posted on the working web site.

### **IV. General education reform topics.**

CEP discussed and adopted a General Education (GE) reform timeline. Meetings of the CEP chair and divisional representatives (as possible) with the Council of Chairs of each division are underway. Conversations are beginning with the larger departments to discuss their plans and progress toward GE proposals. The message that CEP wants to give to departments through early outreach this month is that the GE changes are a great opportunity to improve undergraduate education. Some of the requirements are less intensive allowing for potential savings. The changes give students greater flexibility since there

are fewer requirements ; this should help students finish in four years. Important differences to note from the old system are that no overlap of designations is permitted (with almost no exception), the courses need not be at the lower-division in the new system, and the courses for the new designation may have prerequisites without exception.

The Committee discussed what they would like to know by department for planning purposes. Questions include: which GEs will students satisfy through their majors, which courses will departments offer for students outside their majors, and which GEs will students need to satisfy through other departments. CEP noted their preference that departments submit proposals stating their concerns, rather than holding back in light of enrollment concerns. In response, CEP would try to help with enrollment related issues (gating, limiting to majors, etc.)

Guests noted the need for Admission to have guidelines as soon as possible for how to apply transfer credit for the new requirements by the end of the year and for articulation purposes as well.

In an earlier communication, course sponsoring units were informed that GE designations will be retained on courses that receive new designations, unless departments ask otherwise and CEP approved.

**V. Issues/topics for 2009-10 and member items.**

Discussion of the annual issues list was carried forward to a future meeting due to lack of time.

So attests,

John Tamkun, Chair  
Committee on Educational Policy