

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, November 16, 2011
Kerr Hall Room 307, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**

Present: Mark Anderson, William Dunbar, Joel Ferguson, Melissa Gwyn, Pam Hunt-Carter (Registrar, *ex officio*), Justin Riordan (SUA Rep), Stephen Sweat (NSTF Rep), James Wilson, Peter Young, Susanna Wrangell (Staff), Eileen Zurbriggen (Chair).

Absent: The Provost Rep., Michael McCawley (Associate Director of Admissions).

Guests: Cher Bergeon (Academic Preceptor Designee), Margie Claxton (Associate Registrar), Richard Hughey (VPDUE), Barbara Love (Articulation Officer) . Mathematics Chair Robert Boltje, Mathematics Undergraduate Vice Chair Marty Weissman, and CPE Chair David Smith.

I. Announcement

Chair Zurbriggen attended a Senate Leadership meeting this week on upcoming accreditations for UC. The discussion focused on the new WASC processes and methods that are being put forward. The UC System is pushing back on these proposed new protocols that were designed by an outside vender who also donated the funding. UC campuses feel the learning objectives that UC has adopted are good, and CEP could potentially help advise departments and programs as they develop and adopt learning objectives in our majors. This will probably be as a multi- year effort. Before the discussion of the Arts Chair letter , CEP member Gwyn recused herself. CEP members discussed and finalized the Arts Charge letter. CEP October 19, 2011 minutes were approved with minor corrections sent in via email.

II. Pre Consultation on MPE

Here are the questions CEP members would like to ask:

- What is the impact on departments that don't require students to take the exam, what are the issues for the stakeholders?
- Who is going to prepare the test and it is imperative that the test is different every time so the questions cannot be given or copied
- Students will only hurt themselves if cheating, but is there anything that can prevent this?
- How will students who don't have on line access be accommodated?
- Will the test be proctored? The proposal says no, but ask if departments can request this option
- Preparatory course, the test tells if students are ready for calculus, if they pass pre- calculus at a community college then they don't have to take it at UCSC
- When student's scores allow them to place out of the course and receive credit for Math courses, how does this work?

III. Consultation with Mathematics Chair Robert Boltje and Undergraduate Vice Chair Marty Weissman on the Math Placement Exam (MPE)

Committee on Preparatory Education (CPE) Chair David Smith joined CEP for the consultation and will take CEP's feedback to his committee's meeting on November 28, when CPE will take up the MPE pre-proposal. After introductions, Chair Zurbriggen thanked the guests for the carefully thought out pre-proposal and justification the Mathematics Department submitted, and for consulting with CEP and CPE in advance of submitting their final proposal. Mathematics would like to pilot the test questions this year. CEP members and Chair Smith had an informative discussion with the Mathematics Department guests.

IV. Post Consultation

CEP discussed the advantages of an online math placement exam and had a further discussion about concerns with possible cheating. Some members felt reassured that cheating might be relatively infrequent; others commented that an online environment will always make cheating tempting in a way that does not happen in a proctored environment. The randomizing of test questions was seen as a clear benefit. Most members felt the two week window for taking the test would be beneficial for students. CEP members are interested in how the department plans on presenting the test to incoming students and their parents to encourage participation in the MPE and to educate them that cheating will only hurt them. CEP members did have a concern about students who do not have access to on line technology. Mathematics modules on line that students can take over the summer could be a win-win situation for all. It was suggested that the Math Department could ask UC Davis and Santa Barbara for more explicit advice and data about how much cheating occurs in their online placement exams. On our own campus, consultation with the Languages Program might be helpful, because the Spanish exam has been giving unproctored for some time.

V. Pre Consultation for CP/EVC Galloway November 30. Members felt the first three bullet points are most relevant for CEP to discuss.

Members would like to discuss these issues with CP/EVC Galloway during her visit:

- Increased retention sounds good, but lower division needs improving so the students will improve in the upper division as a matter of course
- Does UCSC have a low retention rate compared to the UC system as a whole?
- Graduate in four years or less: as part of this, does the EVC want departments to streamline major pathways?
- Financial stability for departments, then getting bridge funding, why does this happen, understanding would be good, curriculum planning is affected by financial instability
- Goals seem reasonable, how are we going to get there? What part will CEP play?

Chair Zurbriggen will draft a list of questions to send to CP/EVC Galloway for our consultation at our November 30 meeting.

VI. DQ Discussion

CEP must decide on what to tell the departments, how to help with the removal of disqualification policies from a major, which are not in sync with systemwide regulations per the recent UCRJ ruling. It was suggested last year to replace these disqualification policies with admissions policies to the major. Last year CEP approved a pilot policy for one department on campus. What does CEP want and how do we communicate this to the departments?

- Timeline and process
- DQ work to get off books for next catalog year
- Entry to the major, departments can take time this year to collect data, create a thoughtful proposal for next year
- Multi-year initiative for CEP, what are the goals, process, invite departments to do this year

Here are some of the issues for future discussions:

- A. Disqualification Policies (DQ)
- B. Entrance to the Major policies
 - stopgap policy
 - followed by a more thoughtful one
- C. Invitation to curriculum revision (and the development of learning objectives)

Majors that have DQ policies

Music, Linguistics, Language Studies, all PBSci majors except Physics, all Economics Majors and combined majors, Sociology and its combined majors, and all Engineering majors.

- 1) What do we want departments. to do?
 - a) Immediately stop enforcing late major disqualification
 - b) Remove major DQ policies from catalog copy with December program statements
- 2) Why do we want departments. to do this?
- 3) When or how will we communicate #1 or #2 to them?

CEP members will continue discussing this issue at our next meeting.

VII. Student Survey Information.

CEP surveyed undergraduate students in 2008 on general education requirements before beginning the general education reform initiative. Members will decide if they would like to send out an opinion poll this year. The deadline to submit an application is December 2, but language for the opinion poll is not due until April. After a brief discussion, members decided to apply and decide on the actual questions at a future meeting. Analyst Wrangell will apply on line see if we can get a placeholder for the survey in the Spring.

So attests,

Eileen Zurbriggen, Chair

Committee on Educational Policy