

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY  
MINUTES****Wednesday, January 04, 2012  
Kerr Hall Room 307, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**

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

Absent: Mark Anderson, Michael McCawley (Director of Admissions), The Provost Representative, and Peter Young.

Guests: Cher Bergeon (Academic Preceptor Designee), Margie Claxton (Associate Registrar), Richard Hughey (VPDUE), Barbara Love (Articulation Officer).

**I. Announcements:**

There were no announcements; committee members proceeded to approve the November 30 minutes with minor corrections.

**II. Review of Languages Closure Meeting. Move to next week, January 11.****III. Revising Policy Guidelines on Appointment of Graduate Student Instructors (GSI)**

CEP members held a discussion on accepting the proposed changes the VPAA offered earlier in fall quarter on criteria to include terminal master degree programs. Chair Zurbriggen created a chart to show the changes that VPAA Lee is requesting.

Members agreed to the following changes:

- Remove references to “Ph.D.” and use more inclusive “doctorate”
- Add specific mention of Associate In and Teaching Fellow titles on the form, to clarify the two titles
- Ensure that the forms align with CEP policy
- MFA maybe be only a year and a half and are excellent programs, “virtually” no institution grants a masters in one year, 30 units are not equivalent to a master’s degree, CEP will not adopt this but keep equivalent training as one of the criteria

Members also discussed the request to change CEP policy to state that 30 units is defined as being equivalent to the completion of a master's degree for Associate In appointments. The committee was concerned that such a change would not be limited only to students in terminal master's programs, but would be applicable across the campus, and would unnecessarily weaken the standards for Associate In appointments. While members appreciate the desire to be in sync with other UC campuses, members felt our current criteria met the needs of our campus.

CEP would be willing to consider a modification to its policy that would apply only to one or more specific terminal master's programs. Any such request(s) for modification could probably best be justified by the sponsoring department(s), who are in the best position to determine what amount of partial completion of their program is conceptually equivalent to the attainment of a master's degree for students in a doctoral program. Members thought that the successful completion of a significant portion of the program requirements (e.g., one third or one half of the total units) might be a possibility, but the sponsoring departments should propose what is reasonable to them.

Chair Zurbriggen will draft up the response letter to VPAA Lee and members will approve at our next meeting. Chair Zurbriggen and Analyst Wrangell will work to update the GSI form.

**IV. American Studies Major Update and Suspension Request Due January 31, 2012.**

Last year, CEP declined to approve a proposal to suspend the American Studies (AMST) B.A. program because a revised program charter had just been approved by CEP. The new proposal to suspend the American Studies B.A. Program was discussed; this proposal included an update on the current situation in the department. Chair Zurbriggen opened the discussion with a brief overview from the last two years concerning changes to the major curriculum and faculty commitment changes. This proposal is being put forward as fiscally motivated. For a fiscally motivated suspension, CEP can only make a recommendation, the final authority rests with the EVC. The committee discussed how it is determined whether the motivation is fiscal or not. It was noted that AMST has fewer departmental course requirements than the vast majority of other majors and is therefore relatively inexpensive to mount. It may be more accurate to say that the inability to mount the major relates to a lack of faculty or dean interest in doing so, rather than strictly fiscal reasons. The committee agreed to include the following points in its response letter.

The committee is concerned to see yet another well-regarded, high-quality and popular major in jeopardy, especially because AMST has been an attractive major for underrepresented minority students. AMST is an excellent program with dedicated faculty that has filled a unique niche at UCSC. The disappearance of this program represents a grave loss to students and to the campus as a whole.

The teach-out plan appears to have been constructed with great care. The American Studies faculty have been deeply committed to doing what is best for students (for example, by doing everything possible to ensure that current students will not struggle to complete the major).

The American Studies department currently has only two ladder-rank faculty and Humanities Dean Ladusaw indicates that a proposal to disestablish the department is likely to be forthcoming soon. Two of the three faculty who recently transferred out of the department are not willing to teach courses in the American Studies curriculum (beyond their temporary MOU commitment) and the department reports that affiliated faculty have expressed little interest in supporting an interdepartmental program. In short, there are too few faculty interested in contributing to the curriculum and the program. Unless that changes, the program is clearly no longer viable.

The department decided not to offer AMST 10 during the 2011/12 academic year. This appears to have been made in the desire to serve students. However, this decision created a *de facto* suspension of the major starting in Fall 2011, one that was imposed solely by the department, without formal review or approval by CEP or the administration. CEP believes strongly that this is very detrimental to students and should not happen. Although the review process can sometimes be slow, it should be followed closely. Therefore, the department should offer AMST 10 again this year, in the Spring, or find a way to make substitutions for the course. Qualified students should continue to have access to a major unless and until it is formally suspended, but that has not been the case for American Studies this year. By offering AMST 10 again, the teach-out plan does not need to change.

Both Dean Ladusaw and Chair Porter mentioned the possibility of a proposal to create a critical race and ethnic studies major. CEP agrees that such a major is likely to provide an attractive alternative for students who might previously have chosen American Studies. It will be an important addition to

UCSC's educational offerings. However, the two majors are clearly distinct. It would be best if a proposal to reconstitute American Studies as an interdepartmental program would also be forthcoming. Should the Critical Race and Ethnic Studies (CRES) major not come forth within the next two years, it would be especially important to find a way to bring American Studies out of suspension in 2014.

In several cases, it appears that majors are disappearing not because of a thoughtful process that weighs and balances the needs of multiple constituencies and takes into account what is best for students, but through a cascading chain of events that ends up circumventing true Senate consultation. Decanal decisions (budgetary and otherwise) are followed by individual faculty requests to transfer to other departments, which (individually) are well justified and reasonable and are approved. However, this results in the loss of critical mass within the department with a then inevitable consequence: the department becomes "unviable" and the major "unsustainable". At that point, the only responsible action that CEP can take is to propose suspension (as the committee did for Community Studies) or to vote in favor of a suspension initiated by a dean or department. Each individual decision that led to this point may have been rational (or even optimal) when considered narrowly, but these individual decisions take us down a path that ends up doing undergraduate students a grave disservice. Given the budgetary crisis facing California, it may be that additional departments will need to be eliminated (or consolidated) and additional majors suspended and eventually discontinued. CEP would like to find a process that can take place more transparently and be made more deliberately, with much more attention to the needs of undergraduate students, with an eye toward what is best for the campus as a whole (and not solely what is best for a division, a department, or individual faculty members).

The documents transmitted from Dean Ladusaw included both the department's status report (dated 11/3/11) and their proposed program statement changes (dated 11/22/11). The committee did not review the program statement changes and will comment on those through the normal channels and according to the normal timetable. These include a proposed change to the Disciplinary Communications curriculum.

CEP voted to recommend suspension from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2014. These are the suspension dates requested by Chair Porter, and CEP concurred that these dates are preferable to those proposed by Dean Ladusaw. Unless there is a compelling reason to do otherwise, the timing of a suspension should be aligned with the beginning of a new academic year and academic catalog. A suspension that begins in the middle of the academic year is unnecessarily detrimental to students, and should be avoided.

## **V. Program Statements**

Chair Zurbriggen held a brief discussion to educate members on the procedures for reviewing and approving department program statements for the catalog. Any minor changes to these statements can be approved by sub-committee members and any major changes should be brought to the whole committee. There will be a standing agenda item on future meetings, with specific program listed each week. Members should review carefully because admissions, disqualification, and grading policies are sometimes buried. Subcommittees should feel free to make suggestions for changes that would make these pop out better. The check list can be misleading, so members should review the entire document after referencing the list.

## **VI. Disqualification Policy and Admission to the Major Policy**

Carried forward due to lack of time.

So attests,

Eileen Zurbriggen, Chair  
Committee on Educational Policy