

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY  
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, January 11, 2012  
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, Susanna Wrangell (Staff), Peter Young, Eileen Zurbriggen (Chair).

Absent: The Provost Representative.

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

**I. Announcements:**

None.

**II. Review of Languages Closure Meeting.**

The CEP representative for the Language Program closure meeting reported back that many of CEP's fears concerning teaching foreign languages were resolved. Cuts to the number of courses offered will be less extensive than CEP feared. There was also discussion of the equivalence of one year of language study at UCSC to one year at a semester-based school. Because each 5-unit class at UCSC is supposed to be the equivalent of a 3 or 4-unit semester course, it has been suggested that each year of language study at UCSC is equivalent to 1.5 years of study in a semester system. This may not be literally true, but there is evidence that students at UCSC have advanced farther after 2 or 3 years of language study than students at a semester-based school have. CEP members suggested that it would be nice if our students were recognized for this, when their transcripts are evaluated. The Spanish for Spanish Speakers Program was also discussed. It is a three quarter sequencetaken by heritage speakers of Spanish. It appears to help foster a sense of community among the students who take it, with higher graduation rates.

**III. Review of GSI Letter to VPAA**

Approved with minor changes and will be sent out later today.

Analyst Wrangell and Chair Zurbriggen will update the GSI form to match policy.

**IV. Review of AMST letter to VPAA**

After an extensive discussion, members voted to recommend suspension of the major from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2014. The following points will be included in the letter.

The committee is concerned to see yet another well-regarded, high-quality and popular major in jeopardy, especially given that American Studies (AMST) has been an attractive major for underrepresented minority students and had provided one of the few intellectual spaces on campus for a deep engagement with critical race and ethnic studies. This is an excellent program with dedicated faculty that has filled a unique niche at UCSC. The disappearance of this program represents a loss to UCSC students and to the campus.

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.

A suspension from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2014 is preferred. These are the suspension dates requested by Chair Porter. 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.

The teach-out plan was constructed with care and it appears that AMST faculty are doing everything they can to support their students. CEP is grateful for their efforts.

The decision not to offer AMST 10 during the 2011/12 academic year, while made by the department for understandable reasons, was contrary to CEP's request from last year. It has 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. The committee feels strongly that this should not be the process followed. Proper review channels must be followed, even if the process is slow.

CEP will ask the American Studies Department to offer AMST 10 in Spring 2012. This would be the last opportunity for interested students to take the steps necessary to declare the American Studies major before it is suspended. This need not require change to the teach-out plan. Students should be given access to this plan and informed that they must make it work for them, if they wish to complete the major. For first- year students, this would mean that they would need to complete the major in three years. If it is not possible to teach AMST 10 again this spring, CEP will ask the department to consider waiving AMST 10 as a requirement or to provide some substitution courses that could fulfill this requirement. Qualified students should continue to have access to a major unless and until it is formally suspended.

Both Dean Ladusaw and Chair Porter mention the possibility of a proposal to create a critical race and ethnic studies major. This will be an important addition to UCSC's educational offerings. However, the two majors are clearly distinct and CEP hopes that a proposal to reconstitute American Studies as an interdepartmental program will 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.

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). CEP will review the program statement later and comment on it through the usual channels.

It is troubling that majors are disappearing through a cascading chain of events that ends up circumventing true Senate consultation. Decanal decisions and FTE transfer requests by individual faculty are (individually) well justified and reasonable and are approved. However departments then become unviable and majors unsustainable. Each individual decision may be rational but these individual decisions take us down a path that ends up doing undergraduate students a disservice. This pattern may be seen again in the future and CEP would like to help assist in creating a better process that can take the needs of undergraduates more fully into account.

- -Chair Zurbriggen will send a request to the Humanities dean to request an update on the status of the CRES proposal process.

#### V. **Review of Szasz letter to VPAA**

Members approved the letter with minor changes, and it will be sent out by Analyst Wrangell.

#### VI. **Program Statements**

##### **For this week:**

##### Engineering: Applied Mathematics and Statistics (AMS)

CEP members approved the minor changes requested by AMS as long as confirmation of stakeholder consultation is provided from these departments: Biomolecular Engineering, Economics, Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering, Mathematics, and Physics.

##### Humanities: Division Statement

Classical Studies - Catalog copy refers to information on the web, but the web information does not contradict the program statement. Approved via CEP sub-committee and Associate Registrar Claxton.

Feminist Studies -(FMST) Tabled until our next meeting.

German Studies -Tabled until more information on their revised DC curriculum is available.

Italian Studies -Tabled until more information on their revised DC curriculum is available.

Social Sciences: These program statements will be reviewed next week due to lack of time.

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

Chair Zurbriggen reviewed the program statements and determined which departments CEP should discuss. CEP may need to assist the departments that have not yet proposed changes to their policy.

Here are the following departments that will be reviewed in the coming weeks:

Biology for Molecular, Cellular and Developmental (MCD), Ecology and Evolutionary (EEB), Plant Science, and Ocean Sciences, Bioengineering, Chemistry, Computer Engineering (CMPE), Computer Science (CMPS), Earth Sciences, Economics, Environmental Studies, Language Studies, Linguistics, Mathematics, Music, Sociology, School of Engineering (SOE).

CEP members will discuss options for these departments at future meetings after the Committee on Rules, Jurisdiction and Elections responds to our request for clarification about the SR 900 ruling.

**So attests,**

**Eileen Zurbriggen, Chair**

**Committee on Educational Policy**