

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
MINUTES
Wednesday, March 11, 2015
11 am-1:30 p.m., Kerr Hall, Room 307**

Present: Faye Crosby, Matt Guthaus, Sean Keilen, Barak Krakauer (staff), Mark Krumholz, Alice Malberg (SUA Rep.), Mary Beth Pudup, Roxi Power (NSTF Rep.), , Heather Shearer, John Tamkun(Chair), Susanna Wrangell (staff). Tchad Sanger (Registrar, *ex-officio*)

Absent: Max Hufft (SUA Rep.)

Guest: Margie Claxton (Associate Registrar), VPDUE Hughey,

I. Announcements and Consent Agenda

Chair Tamkun updated members on the EEB Biology Department response; and accepted CEP's recommendations for the program statement and qualification to major policy.

Consent Agenda items:

Draft response to VPAA on Games and Playable Media B.A. proposal members approved with minor corrections.

The draft minutes for February 11, & 25, 2015 minutes were approved with editorial changes.

II. Psychology Qualification to the Major Report

The Committee held a discussion on the Psychology Department's qualification to the major report. Members agreed this was an outstanding major qualification policy; very few problems or students not qualifying. Major numbers went up after introducing this qualification policy and there were only two appeals. Professor Crosby recused herself before any committee decision was made. Members found Psychology's qualification policy to be well thought out and successful; members appreciated the second pathway into the major and are impressed with the continuing popularity and growth of the major with very few negative outcomes based on the data provided. CEP members approved the policy with the next review during the department's scheduled external review. The Department's program statement was also approved.

III. Final Exam Policies and DRC Accommodations

The Department of Anthropology is seeking clarification on ways to mitigate what seems to be an unusually high number of exam accommodation requests from the DRC and ask if the department can offer a shorter final exam during Finals Week (for example, students would be required to finish in 1 ½ hours), which would give the instructor some flexibility for making accommodations for students who need 2 or 3 times the allotted time for exams. CEP discussed the issue and found no rules or regulations that determine that exams must be three hours in length; merely that they cannot exceed three hours. If an instructor wishes to give a shorter exam, that would be possible. If an instructor were to decide to give a shorter exam, however, they must be explicit about the length of the exam in writing and enforce it when given; if an exam is to be two hours, for example, then students should be informed of this on the syllabus, and any students who do not require an accommodation must have their exams collected after two hours. If a student is allowed to take twice the amount of time to complete an exam due to a disability, this would be twice the time relative to the amount of time allotted to a student without an accommodation.

IV. Other Issues pertaining to Course and Final Exam Scheduling

The final exams for groups of classes that are often taken together sometimes fall on the same day; a student could be required to take up to 9 hours of exams in a single day. There is no policy that governs

the maximum hours of testing but for students with accommodation the limit is 10 hours per day. In the past UCSC had a five day exam schedule, now it is four. Members will be examining other final exam schedules in the UC System for a future meeting agenda.

V. LAAD 99/99F and LAAD 199/199F Request for Pass/No Pass Grading Option

CEP received a request from the Chair of the Languages and Applied Linguistics Department for the approval of pass/no pass only grading option for tutorial course numbers LAAD 99/99F and 199/199F, used for the International Playhouse. Members found the proposal problematic; the letter grade option for the tutorial courses is removed. Undergraduates must take at least 75% of their classes for a letter grade; CEP is therefore reluctant to approve the elimination of the letter grade option for any course in the absence of a compelling justification for the change and are concerned that the “blanket” elimination of the letter grading option for LAAD 99, 99F, 199 or 199F would disadvantage students who enroll in tutorials for other reasons. CEP will suggest the development a unique course number for students involved in the International Playhouse and reconsider limiting the grading options for a new course proposal.

VI. CMPM DC Curriculum Review

12:45

Members reviewed the Computational Media Department’s DC curriculum for their majors and found the proposal problematic. Although the overall impression of the proposed changes seemed favorable, the amount of writing in the three courses far exceeds the minimum amount required to satisfy the DC requirement; and several problems with the proposed prerequisites for the CMPM 170/171/172 courses. For example, CMPM 170 requires a prerequisite that doesn’t yet exist and CMPM 172, which is offered in the winter, has a prerequisite that is only offered in the spring. Members are therefore concerned that the graduation of a student who is unable to take or pass CMPM170, 171, 172 or even one of their prerequisites would be delayed by a full year. CEP will make a recommendation to the Department to consider putting the DC on a sub set of the courses and would prefer not to see 4 credits added to an already demanding major.

VII. Limiting Majors with regard to Resource Impactions

Chair Tamkun updated members on issues of impaction of majors due to resources, logistics, or other issues. CEP in the past did not consider policies that gated access based on arbitrary criteria with enrollment management. Last year the CPB- CEP subcommittee on major impaction could not obtain the necessary data needed to create a policy and disbanded. The Committee on Planning and Budget made a recommendation for the Student Success Task Force to follow up on this issue in last year’s annual report. Impacted majors delay students completing a degree on time and effects retention rates.

Chair Tamkun recused himself before the Human Biology Major discussion.

VIII. MCD Human Biology Major Impaction Requests

The MCD Biology Department is requesting guidance from the committee with regard to their internship and limiting their major. Members considered the department’s three options to address the impaction of this major: increasing the overall qualification GPA for the major qualification policy; requiring a minimum grade of C+ in all qualification courses; or aligning enrollments with the number of available internships in the community. Members also considered adding a formal application process to the major, but after discussion, recommend a version of the second option outlined below.

- Members agreed that making two strategic changes to the qualification policy would be more effective.
- First, students will be required to earn a minimum grade of “C+” or better in all qualification courses (Chem 1ABC & Biol 20 A/B),
- Second, all qualification courses must be completed by the campus major declaration deadline with a 2.3 grade point average.

As the MCD and Human Biology Majors only differ by two courses, students should be made aware that, if they cannot major in the Human Biology, they can still likely graduate with an MCD Biology Major. For students who do not qualify for Human Biology Major, CEP encourages the department to examine the curricular pathway back into the MCD major so students have an alternate plan.

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