

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY  
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, December 10, 2014  
11 am-1:30 p.m., Kerr Hall, Room 307**

Present: John Tamkun (Chair), Margie Claxton (Associate Registrar), Matt Guthaus, Richard Hughey (VPDUE), Sean Keilen, Barak Krakauer (ASO staff), Jaye Padgett, Roxi Power (NSTF), Mary Beth Pudup, Tchad Sanger (Registrar), Susanna Wrangell (ASO staff).

Absent: Provost Representative, Faye Crosby, Max Hufft (SUA Representative),

**I. Announcements and Consent Agenda**

Chair Tamkun announced that CEP will coordinate with the Senate Executive Committee on issues related to the Disciplinary Communication requirement. It is important for CEP to be involved in this process, especially in the context of the external review of the Writing Program. The committee plans to share information with SEC about what the writing requirements are (ELWR, C1, C2, and DC) and discuss them together; this discussion will then continue at divisional meetings of department chairs as well as meetings of college provosts. A draft document explaining the writing requirements will be introduced in a future agenda. The C- grading option may also be discussed at these meetings.

CEP also agreed to grant the Psychology Department a deferral for their report about the effects of their major qualification policy. The department has only recently received data from IRAPS, and the committee decided that incorporating this data into the report would be important. The committee also decided to look carefully at the report that the Psychology Department produces and use it to provide advice for other departments who are preparing similar reports. Member Crosby was not present for these discussions.

The consent agenda was approved, including the draft minutes of November 19 and the METX external review closure letter.

**II. External Review of History of Consciousness**

History of Consciousness (HistCon) is a graduate program that offers many courses taken by undergraduates. CEP concurred with the external review committee's finding that the department should increase the number of offerings for undergraduates, and would encourage the department to propose an undergraduate minor. In addition, CEP believes that this department could be a model for the positive effects of graduate growth on undergraduate education; the department could use TA and GSI lines to offer courses that exploit a synergy between the graduate and undergraduate offerings. The department's meta-level approach to the academy puts it in a good position to make use of graduate students with diverse research interests as instructors of undergraduate courses that cover topics and approaches that would not be covered by other departments. The department is in the position of being able to use a strong graduate program as a springboard for increased undergraduate offerings, rather than the other way around.

CEP, however, remains concerned about the small size of the department and questions its sustainability. The committee would like to get some more data about enrollments, affiliations with other departments, and so on in order to determine whether HistCon is sustainable on its own or is using the resources of other departments. The campus needs to determine whether the department fills a campus need sufficient to divert resources from elsewhere in the Humanities Division. CEP will raise these issues at the closure meeting.

### **III. Cowell 124, Personal Finance and Investing**

CEP reviewed the course proposal for Cowell 124, Personal Finance and Investing. While some members expressed concern about the rigor of this proposed course, other members noted that courses very similar to this are offered at other institutions, including other UCs and other large, public research universities. Other members noted that this course has goals that are in line with those of college courses in general (i.e., applicable skills not offered through the divisions) and that other colleges already offer classes with a similar level of “rigor.”

Ultimately, members determined that this class should be approved, as it seems to be an appropriate 2-credit offering in light of other courses offered by the colleges. The committee also noted that this course was numbered as 124, and noted that this course did not appear to be an upper-level class, given its rigor and lack of prerequisites. The committee will ask Cowell to renumber the class. CEP also thought it might be useful for the colleges to determine some standard numbering system for these types of classes.

Member Crosby was not present for these discussions.

### **IV. Earth and Planetary Sciences Online Course Offering**

EART 3 is an existing class offered by Earth and Planetary Sciences. The department is proposing to offer a version of this class online, available to all UC students. The online version is not substantively different from what is being offered on campus, and is arguably better, since the online version has labs, while the on-campus version does not. In light of the fact that this class is already a large lecture format class, it seems natural to offer it as an online course. The committee approved the proposal for this class to be taught online.

### **V. Consultation with Jaye Padgett on Graduation and Retention**

Professor Padgett reported on some of the data being collected by the Student Success Steering Committee (SSSC). Looking at 4- and 6-year graduate rates, UCSC is in a similar position to Merced and Riverside. Furthermore, there is a gap between white students and minority students, although these gaps are narrowing, and smaller than they are at most other UCs. The SSSC is attempting to determine whether our graduation rates are higher than might otherwise be expected, given the demographics of UCSC – for example, we outperform the graduation rates predicted by HERI for our demographics. Professor Padgett is interested in trying to determine whether the university is actually graduating students at a higher rate than might otherwise be predicted and whether these successes can be leveraged to create further improvements. The SSSC is also attempting to gather more data about time to degree by departments, and notes that the IRAPS website has already been updated to reflect some of this information. Professor Padgett noted that the SSSC is still considering how to set ambitious but realistic goals for graduation rates over the next few years. Professor Padgett will continue this discussion with CEP and with the Academic Senate in the following quarter.