

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
MINUTES
Wednesday, December 3, 2014
11 am-1:30 p.m., Kerr Hall, Room 307**

Present: Margie Claxton (Associate Registrar), Faye Crosby (Chair pro tem), Matt Guthaus, Richard Hughey (VPDUE), Sean Keilen, Barak Krakauer (ASO staff), Barbara Love (Articulation Officer), Roxi Power (NSTF), Mary Beth Pudup, Tchad Sanger (Registrar), John Tamkun, Susanna Wrangell (ASO staff).

Absent: Provost Representative, Heather Shearer, Max Hufft (SUA Representative),

I. Announcements and Consent Agenda

Member Crosby served as Chair *pro tem*.

Member Crosby announced that the Honors Program is currently polling their students about their experiences in the Honors Program, and whether the program's existence influenced their decision to enroll at UCSC or remain here.

The consent agenda was approved, including minutes for November 5 and November 12, as well as the external review letters for LALS and Computer Science.

II. Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) Teaching Earth and Planetary Sciences Course

Earth and Planetary Sciences has requested that a graduate student instructor teach a course that satisfies one half of its Disciplinary Communication (DC) requirement. There is a precedent of CEP denying these types of GSI requests, and the committee believes that, in most cases, DC classes should be taught by ladder-rank faculty; classes that fulfill the DC requirement should be taught by faculty members who have frequently published in (and, in many cases, edited for) academic journals in the discipline. Nonetheless, CEP policy does allow for exceptions to this policy in cases where no ladder-rank faculty are available, as seems to be the case here; in addition, since this class only fulfills half of the DC requirement for Earth and Planetary Sciences, students will still receive some writing instruction from ladder-rank faculty members. Thus, the instructor for this course was approved, though the committee noted that this case should be seen as exceptional, and that CEP will still advocate that DC courses be taught by ladder-rank faculty.

III. Course Articulation and Credit

CEP received a request for clarification about how course credit for upper-division classes functions in cases where a student takes a lower-division class at another institution that is articulated as an upper-division class at UCSC. Currently, a student needs 40 upper-division credits to graduate, but it may be unclear if a course that was taken as lower-division but corresponds to an upper-division course here would count as "upper-division" in the relevant sense.

Committee members agreed that, since the departments in question had determined that these community college classes were equivalent to upper-division classes here, the credit they bear should be construed as upper-division credit. Currently, there are only four such courses that are upper-level at UCSC, but equivalent to lower-level courses at a community college (CHEM 108A/L, CHEM 108B/M, EE 101/L, and ED 180); students who take classes that are articulated as equivalent will continue to

receive upper-division credit. Such an interpretation is consistent with the language of regulation 10.4.3. Any future requests for such articulations would originate from a department, rather than community college.

IV. External Review: Mathematics Follow-up

CEP had earlier noted issues with academic advising that were raised in the external review committee's report. The Dean and Department Chair responses to the ERC report are now available, and discuss the department's plans to overhaul advising. The committee welcomed this news, and would like to remain apprised of developments in advising. CEP's letter for the closure meeting will be updated to reflect this development about advising.

V. External Review: METX

Microbiology and Environmental Toxicology (METX) is a graduate program, but its faculty teach undergraduate courses, such as microbiology and anatomy. CEP discussed whether this contact with undergraduates could be usefully leveraged to expand their Master's program, perhaps by recruiting undergraduates to a 4+1 degree program. Such a program would locate qualified students for the MS program while providing undergraduate students with increased educational opportunities at UCSC. Furthermore, because METX already teaches many undergraduate classes, they could consider offering a minor to undergraduates in order to increase enrollment and bring additional resources to the department.

VI. Course Approval: EART 3 Online Course Offering

Committee members tabled this item because not all of the materials required to evaluate the course were available.

VII. Student Directed Seminars

Members reviewed a proposal for a student directed seminar to be offered in the Literature department. Some members expressed reservations about student directed seminars in general, although the committee agreed that this particular course seemed to be acceptable in light of established guidelines and precedent for these courses. Members agreed to approve this course, though remained open to revising policy on student directed seminars at a later date to ensure that academic units are not encouraged to delegate teaching authority to undergraduates. These seminars could be used as a capstone option for advanced students and provide a unique educational opportunity for the instructor and students alike, but they could also provide poor experiences with untrained teachers. Many committee members were concerned about a trend toward less student contact with faculty and wondered whether it was appropriate for these classes to be credit-bearing; others wondered whether these classes could only count toward some fixed number of credits for a student over the course of his or her academic career. The committee agreed to revisit this issue and determine whether such limits were appropriate at a subsequent meeting.

VIII. Cowell 124, Personal Finance and Investing

Members agreed to table discussion about this course until an updated syllabus is provided.