

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
MINUTES
Wednesday, November 12, 2014
11 am-1:30 p.m., Kerr Hall, Room 307

Present: Faye Crosby, Matt Guthaus, Barak Krakauer (staff), Mark Krumholz, Mary Beth Pudup (Chair pro tem), Heather Shearer, Susanna Wrangell (staff).

Absent: Provost Rep., Max Hufft (SUA Rep.), Sean Keilen, John Tamkun (Chair), Roxi Power (NSTF Rep.), Tchad Sanger (Registrar, *ex-officio*).

Guest: Margie Claxton (Associate Registrar).

I. Announcements and Consent Agenda

Member Pudup served as chair in the absence of Chair Tamkun.

The consent agenda was approved, including the minutes of October 29 and the GSI approval from last meeting. Members reviewed and approved external review closure letters for Electrical Engineering and Technology Management, as well as the Education Department External Review Deferral request.

II. Supplemental Course Approval Checklist

CEP has begun to simplify the supplemental course approval checklist. Members Keilen and Shearer presented a new version of this checklist which requests that the individual proposing a course state where the syllabus answers the course approval questions, rather than requesting separate answers to each question. This may also have the welcome effect of making course syllabi that are clearer and more informative.

Committee members agreed that the proposed changes would simplify the course approval process and were impressed by the work that has been done so far. Members were interested in continuing this work and revising the GE supplemental form in a similar way. The committee noted that what is currently requested on the GE supplemental form does not match the GE requirements as specified by the Senate, and that it would be helpful for the new GE supplemental form to reflect accurately what is expected from a GE course. Members hope to complete work on both of these simplified forms soon.

III. Open Access Policy

Members discussed the Presidential Open Access Policy, which would extend the current Open Access policy to the entire campus community. Under this new policy, any author of scholarly articles would grant UC rights to their work for the sole purpose of publishing these articles in an open access repository. In effect, everyone on campus would publish their articles to eScholarship (or another open access database) for open access to everyone. CEP determined that, in so far as this policy will make the scholarly work of UC authors freely available to students, it is clearly in the interests of undergraduate education. CEP supports this policy.

V. External Reviews

Latin American & Latino Studies (LALS) Department:

CEP discussed the external review committee's report on the Latin American & Latino Studies department, and found LALS to be well positioned to educate students about the 'new California'; the department seems to a pioneer in research and education and education about the 'new California'.

However, CEP shared the ERC's concerns about the Portuguese: while Portuguese is listed as satisfying the major's language requirement, and Brazilian culture are a central part of Latin American studies, the department does not have adequate staff to teaching upper level classes in Portuguese. Future hires should address this issue. CEP was also concerned about the growth of the graduate program: it is essential that the graduate program not grow at the expense of the undergraduate experience, and that faculty still have time to mentor and advise undergraduate students. Of course, the graduate program could, if managed properly, be a great benefit to the undergraduate program: perhaps graduate students could run conversational seminars, for example. Nonetheless, these plans need to be thought and spelled out explicitly. Finally, the committee was concerned about the practicality of offering several combined majors, and thought that streamlining these majors would benefit the department.

The committee will approve a draft letter raising these issues and prepare to discuss them at the closure meeting.

Computer Science (CMPS) Department

The committee discussed the Computer Science Department's external review, and found the department to be large, well-managed, and important to the University's research and education missions. The main area of concern, however, is that there are not enough seats in the important classes for most students to graduate in a timely fashion. While the quality of the classes offered is good, there simply are not enough of them (or not enough spaces in the classes that do exist) to allow every student who wants to major in CMPS to graduate in a reasonable amount of time. CEP would like to ask CMPS whether they had considered offering more classes online, or broadcasting lectures to overflow rooms where possible. In general, CEP wondered how CMPS was planning to manage growing enrollments, and what specific, programmatic structures can address this issue. Finally, the committee wondered how undergraduates could be better engaged in research, perhaps through NSF grants or other research grants aimed at upper-division undergraduates.

CEP will approve a draft letter raising these for discussion by the external review committee.

VI. Program Learning Outcomes Request

Departments are required to place their Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) in the catalog program statement, but department managers would like to know exactly where to place them. While CEP does not approve the PLOs, it does have authority over catalog copy, so CEP could provide guidance about the placement of these statements.

Members agreed that these learning outcomes should be enumerated immediately following the department or program's introduction or summary, and before the degree or program required courses are listed. These should be under a separate header, consistent with the list on department websites as approved by the VPAA. If units have already submitted catalog program statements and these program learning outcomes have been placed in a different location, CEP will make this formatting change for the 2015 -16 catalog year to expedite approvals.