

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, January 28, 2015
11 am-1:30 p.m., Kerr Hall, Room 307**

Present: Faye Crosby, Matt Guthaus, Sean Keilen, Barak Krakauer (staff), Mary Beth Pudup, Tchad Sanger (Registrar, *ex-officio*), Heather Shearer, John Tamkun(Chair), Susanna Wrangell (staff), Max Hufft (SUA Rep.), Alicia Malmberg (SUA Rep.).

Guests: Jan Burroughs (Preceptor Rep.), Margie Claxton (Associate Registrar), VPDUE Hughey, Barbara Love (Articulation Officer).

I. Announcements and Consent Agenda

Members received a report from the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meeting. There was a discussion of lower division and DC writing requirements at this meeting, and it was determined that CEP should continue to study this issue. Committee members also heard updates about international and out-of-state acceptance rates and the Silicon Valley Initiative.

Committee members re-affirmed their support of the honors and challenge programs, and will seek to work with SEC on determining how to best preserve these programs.

CEP discussed the lack of standardization with respect to how information about programs is presented in the catalog; this causes students to become confused about the requirements and procedures for declaring majors and determining their course of study. CEP will study how best to standardize catalog copy in the future.

Members approved program statements for Art (after stakeholder confirmation), Film & Digital Media: Social Documentation, History of Art & Visual culture, Music, Theater Arts, Computer Science, Classical Studies, East Asian Studies, Community Studies (after spelling corrections), Sociology, Politics.

The following program statements will receive approval after corrections are made: Chemistry and Biochemistry, Computer Engineering, CRES, Feminist Studies, Feminist Studies: Queer & Sexuality Studies, Cognitive Sciences, Legal Studies, Psychology, Mathematics.

II. EEB Qualification Policy Request for Data

The Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department submitted a qualification policy for last year's catalog that was approved for only one year; continuing this qualification policy would require data about the effects of its qualification policy on students. EEB has yet to submit a program statement for this year's catalog, and it is unlikely that CEP will see the data about its qualification policy soon. Members determined that it would not be in the best interests of students to remove EEB's qualification policy, but noted that the lack of response to CEP's requests for information and the lack of a program statement for the catalog makes it difficult to determine how best to proceed. Members also discovered that EEB's minor was left out of the catalog last year (presumably in error), and wondered whether this will be addressed in the coming year.

Members found parts of EEB's qualification policy to be unproblematic, such as the introductory sequence of BIOL 20A and CHEM 1A and 1B. The requirement of BIOL 20B or 20C may be problematic, as 20C is more appropriate for the major and providing the option of taking 20B may

increase failure rates. The Calculus requirement is still more unclear, as it does not seem to be a good predictor of academic performance, and is not a prerequisite for courses in the major. Pending more data about this course, members were inclined to remove it from the qualification policy.

Members determined that these issues could best be worked out in an open discussion between a CEP representative, the Dean of the division, and the Chair of EEB. Members look forward to this year's program statement with an updated qualification policy as soon as possible.

III. Community Studies Program Review Comments

Member Pudup recused herself from this discussion.

Members reviewed a draft of the review process for the Community Studies Program from VPAA Lee. Members found the language to be clear and useful in a review, but some members had reservations about the assessment protocols to be used.

IV. Course Approvals with GE Designations

Members reviewed some sample courses that were approved for the PR-S, PR-C, PR-E and TA general education requirements. In particular, the committee sought clarity on the PR-E (collaborative endeavor) GE. Many courses involve group work, peer commenting, or other kinds of activities where students work and learn collaboratively, but a class designated as fulfilling the collaborative endeavor GE should have explicit instruction in how to work in groups, with class time devoted to learning about leadership, teamwork, and group functioning. Members noted that many classes that are submitted with this requirement for approval do not seem to have these features, even though they are described on the CEP website.

More generally, the committee found that explicit information about what GE-designated courses should cover exists on the CEP website, but this information can be somewhat difficult to find. The committee will seek to streamline how information about the GE requirements are discussed on the website, and better point faculty members toward this information when filling out course approval requests.

V. Discussion of C Minus Report

Members revised the draft of their report to the Senate on the addition of a C- grade. Members made various changes to the document, and determined that they would recommend adding D- and D+ grade options, in addition to the C-.