

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
MINUTES**

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

Present: Doris Ash, Faye Crosby, Matt Guthaus, Erica Halk (NTSF Rep.), Mary-Beth Harhen (staff), Seamus Howard (SUA Rep.), Tonya Ritola, Vanessa Sadsad (SUA Rep.), Tchad Sanger (Registrar, *ex-officio*), Felicity Schaeffer, John Tamkun, (Chair).

Absent: Dee Hibbert-Jones, Sean Keilen (Provost Rep.), Susanna Wrangell (staff).

Guests: VPDUE Hughey and Associate Registrar Claxton.

I. Announcements

Chair Tamkun updated members on the SEC meeting this week, CAB/SEC was cancelled. He reminded members to attend the Senate Orientation tomorrow.

Consent agenda items were approved and the following correspondence:

CEP responses to supplemental questions to ERC for external reviews for Biomolecular Engineering and Feminist Studies. CEP responses on course evaluations and proposed revisions to SR 417 & 621. Minutes for September 30 and October 07 were approved with corrections.

II. Review Proposed Minor in Music

VPAA Lee has sent in a proposal for a minor in Western Art Music. Members reviewed the guidelines and proposed course offerings, impact on curriculum, and student demand. This minor was successful several years ago but was discontinued due to a change in departmental resources. Members support the department's approach that minors are a good method for customizing a student's education; it is better to have a minor than to create an individual major. It also provides a mechanism for students to enroll in impacted classes. The committee is largely in support of the proposal and will likely approve after our concerns are addressed. The majors in this department are credit intensive, but the committee expressed some concerns about the large number of courses and credits required for the minor. Many of the courses are only offered once per year. While typically, CEP's definition for a minor includes substantial work in the discipline, and minimum upper division credit units are set at 25, this minor proposal includes additional course credit in ensembles and individual lessons, bringing the total units between 59 and 65. The fees alone seem a deterrent to many students who may be interested but lack adequate resources.

The proposal states that, upon discontinuance of the program, "Students shall be allowed a minimum of 2 years to complete program-specific courses." This timeline, unfortunately, is not sufficient to guarantee catalog rights to students. However, we are heartened to hear the department's Curriculum Committee shall determine appropriate alternate courses honoring catalog rights for declared students.

While CEP is less concerned with Program Learning Outcomes, these should be measurable and have clearly articulated outcomes, numbers 3 and 4 should be re-examined.

III. Winter Course Approvals Online Courses

CMPS 105: Online course for open source programming being taught by a Chancellor's Teaching Fellow award recipient. Members find the content to be fine but are confused by the delivery method. It appears to be a hybrid and not totally online. CEP will approve after the quarter offered is clear and the delivery method is confirmed.

History 60: Scientific Vocabulary and the Roots of the European Scientific Tradition for UCOE. CEP requested a course revision. Members needed more time to review last year's requested changes and will review again at a future meeting.

IV. External Review Stage 1: Politics Department

As documented in the self-study, the Politics Department has progressed rather well during this review period by producing impactful scholarship, stabilizing its PhD program, continuing to diversify its undergraduate population, developing undergraduate support for career development and for improving written communication, and shifting labor structures in order to provide undergraduates with more courses taught by ladder rank faculty and graduate students. Further, UCUES data from 2014 suggests that the department's curricular improvements have been well received by students: with regard to understanding Politics as a field of study and the development of analytical and critical thinking skills, UCSC Politics majors rate the program much higher than their UC peers, as well as their peers in the social sciences more broadly. These successes, however, are paired with distinct challenges with regard to increasing the number of faculty and affiliated faculty that support the program and offering more funding opportunities for graduate students.

CEP recommends the following questions be directed to the External Review Committee (ERC):

1. While the Politics Department has implemented Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) and has developed multi-year assessment plans for assessing the undergraduate major, the results from 2014-2015 "have not yet been used as a guide to improve the program." Does the ERC have any recommendations for how the department can use assessment results to improve the undergraduate major and to provide a more robust student learning opportunity?
2. The department clearly recognizes that undergraduate students should have appropriate access to ladder rank faculty, and in response to the 2007-2008 External Review, the department increased class mix by offering fewer lower-division courses with increased student enrollment. In these courses, ladder rank faculty work directly with lower-division students. Additionally, the department has increased its upper-level courses, which are taught by PhD candidates in the department, in order to offer more seminar-style courses for undergraduates. Does the ERC support these changes? Are there other possibilities the ERC can identify for improving the quality of courses offered to undergraduate majors?
3. Since previous ERC report, the campus has adopted the Disciplinary Communication requirement. To provide support for the DC requirement, Politics has developed several initiatives: (a) improving TA mentoring for the courses, (b) piloting "class-specific writing groups organized around tutor-facilitated writing sessions" for under-prepared students, and (c) and restoring TA ratios (from 80:1 to 50:1). Does the ERC have any other suggestions for ensuring that Politics provides quality support for students completing the DC requirement?

V External Review Stage 1: Sociology

Subcommittee members gave a brief summary of the history of the department which seems to have stabilized after retirements and successful recruitments for the vacant FTE. Overall, the department looks like it has entered a steady state by hiring three new faculty to teach a growing number of majors. However, CEP would like for the following questions to be added to the external review committee charge letter:

1. Qualification Policy: The department has proposed to adjust the gateway courses by moving 103A/B to lower division and altering the Disciplinary Communication component to 105A/B and the 196A capstone. How has the previous qualification policy been working and how will the new changes affect this policy?
2. Department Stability: Does the department have enough cohesion to function as a team and deal effectively with the current ratio of majors to faculty while maintaining the quality of the major?

Executive Session:

VI. Continued Discussion on Committee on Courses of Instruction Legislation Changes