

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
MINUTES

May 20, 2020

10:40 a.m.-1:10 p.m.

via Zoom re COVID 19 Campus Closure

Present: Douglas Bonett, Manel Campus, Provost Representative, Marlina De Castro (SUA Student Representative), Kate Edmunds, Joy Hagen (NSTF Representative), Lindsay Hinck (CCI Chair, ex officio), Rebecca Hurdis (Senate Analyst), Dongwook Lee, Ronnie Lipschutz, Pradip Mascharak, Richard Montgomery, Onuttom Narayan (Chair), Tonya Ritola WouldGo, Tchad Sanger (University Registrar, ex-officio), Matt Wagers.

Guests: Deputy Registrar Margie Claxton, Associate Registrar Kalin McGraw, Preceptor's Representative Winnie Tang

I. Consent Agenda

The following were approved:

- 05/13/20 Minutes
- Letters:
 - CEP to ASC Lau re Course Sponsoring Agencies
 - CEP to Physics Chair re Senior Thesis requirement
 - CEP to University Registrar re GSI Mentors as Co-Instructors
 - CEP to University Registrar re Priority Enrollment for University Employees

Action: Correspondence to be sent out.

II. Math Placement Test

Debra Lewis presented to the committee the functionality and data associated with ALEKS. ALEKS was introduced in UC Santa Cruz in 2015. Her primary points were as follows:

- ALEKS is not just a placement exam. It provides targeted instruction.
- When ALEKS recommends a higher level course, recommending that students move down to an easier course can delay their graduation.
- Information provided by advising regarding math requirements should correctly reflect the requirements of each program, and should not discourage students from taking the course for which ALEKS determines that they are at the correct level.

Members further discussed:

- The number of times students should be allowed to repeat the ALEKS assessment, as well as the allocated time frame,
- Interpretation of the results and the way that thresholds are determined,
- SAT scores as an alternative placement mechanism,
- Consideration of MDTP being a better placement tool, and
- Class sizes and the instruction provided in introductory mathematics courses.

Action: Report will be written and shared with the committee at the following meeting.

III. Biotechnology B.A. Proposal

The committee reviewed the proposal and incorporated comments from CPB, VPAA and the Dean. The committees made several recommendations concerning the program statement for the 2020-21 catalog regarding course scheduling and articulations for transfer students. CEP also supported CPB's recommendation for a LSOE hire to maintain the teaching, advising and administrative responsibilities associated with a new major. The committee raised concerns regarding the inadequacy of advising resources in BSOE.

Action: Correspondence to be sent to the VPAA.

IV. Call for Online Courses by the iCPEVC and VPAA's Office

Members discussed concerns over the recent call for online courses by the iCPEVC and VPAA's offices. There was discussion regarding if the Academic Senate had been consulted before the call had gone out. Members raised questions about:

- The conditions of use and ownership if approved
- Preference for lab and studio courses
- Communication to departments about curricular impacts

Action: Committee to further discuss this issue.

V. Academic Literacy Curriculum Assessments by the Writing Program

Writing Program Chair WouldGo presented to the committee the IRAPS report that assessed Writing 25 & 26, Writing 1 and Writing 2. CEP was primarily interested in the following questions:

- Are students coming into the Writing courses with adequate preparation? Students are improving as they progress through the ALC. Students with AWPE scores of 6 in WRIT1 outperformed their peers, and students who were ELWR satisfied as frosh outperformed their peers in WRIT 2.
- Are students achieving the learning outcomes of the course? Yes. The only criterion for which students did not meet the 75% threshold is "language use" for students who started in WRIT 25.
- Is the Writing Program able to offer enough seats of each course each term, and what are the challenges in achieving this? In 2020-21 and extending through Summer Session 2020, the Writing program has met student demand for ALC courses.
- How is WRIT 1E and WRIT 2H faring? Students in WRIT 1E and WRIT 1 demonstrated similar proficiencies. WRIT 2H was not assessed.