

Committee on Preparatory Education
Minutes

Friday, January 16, 2009
1-2:30 p.m., Kerr Hall Room 129

Present: Nandini Bhattacharya (NSTF Rep), Nate Mackey, Roxanne Monnet (Staff), Sarah-Hope Parmeter (ELWR Coordinator), Judith Scott (Chair), Tony Tromba.

I. Announcements, minutes, and updates.

The November 17, 2008, minutes were accepted as amended.

Members were reminded of the plan for Senate Meetings on both February 18 and March 6.

II. Math needs for social sciences majors.

CPE was apprised of a grant received by a professor in mathematics to offer Math 4, a course intended for social sciences majors, to be taught for two years. The course was taught last year. The instructor would like to increase the number of social sciences students who enroll in the spring 2009 offering of the course.

The Committee discussed how to increase the awareness of departments in the social sciences regarding courses that may be a better fit than AMS 3/Math 3 for their majors, partially in light of comments identified in CEP's student survey of spring 2008. CPE considered whether to write to relevant department chairs of these departments to ensure that they are aware of Math 4, as well as AMS 2 which will be offered for the first time during spring 2009.

CPE wants to encourage department to thinking about changing the requirement for their majors or to consider alternative courses to satisfy the math requirement for these degrees.

CPE hopes that the spring 2009 offering of Math 4 will not be the final offering since the duration of the grant will have ended. For this reason it may be urgent for relevant departments to meet to discuss whether this new course would be more appropriate for the social sciences students.

III. Opinion Poll on Preparatory Education.

CPE discussed whether there would be value added in running an opinion poll through the student election process. They did not arrive at questions that they thought would be furthered by such a survey that falls within CPE's charge.

IV. Items to take to the UCOPE meeting.

Chair Scott asked members for issues to take to UCOPE. It was suggested that she raise the topic of what could be done to get resources for reduced class size in writing and math.

Members think that any useful information that UCOPE would make available that will aid CPE in identifying what it may do to support the needs of math preparation at UCSC would be appreciated. The Committee is curious to know how our fail rate compares to other UC campuses in introductory math courses. They would like to know from the other campuses what sorts of things are being done at the lower-division level to better prepare students for their upper-division studies.

So attests,

Judith Scott, Chair
Committee on Preparatory Education