

**Committee on Preparatory Education**  
Minutes

Wednesday, May 19, 2010  
9-10:30 a.m., Kerr Hall Rm 129

Present: Nandini Bhattacharya (NSTF Rep), Mary-Kay Gamel (Chair), Roxanne Monnet (Staff), David Smith, Anna Tsing.

Absent: Sarah-Hope Parmeter (ELWR Coordinator).

**I. Announcements, updates, and minutes.**

The minutes for March 31 were accepted.

A stretch course version of Math 2 has been proposed and will be considered by the Committee on Educational Policy for teaching in 2010-11. The intent is to catch students early who may not be thriving in Math 2, perhaps with an algebra readiness test on the first day of class, and direct them toward a 2-credit small class for the rest of the quarter. In the winter the students would return and complete Math 2. The proposers intend to augment instruction with Learning Support Services tutors, making use of Modified Supplemental Instruction (MSI) program. Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education Bill Ladusaw has agreed to fund the graduate students who would teach the 2-credit special course.

CPE would like to follow up with the Psychology Department regarding math course options for their students. It may be that some of the new general education courses that satisfy either the Mathematics and Formal Reasoning requirement or the Statistical Reasoning requirement would fill the need for what the department is hoping to achieve with their current math requirement. How often Math 4 will be offered next year and how large the class will be appears uncertain.

**II. Modified Supplemental Instruction Communication.**

CPE reviewed a draft letter intended to promote use of Modified Supplemental Instruction (MSI) in courses and will ask LSS Director Holly Cordova for feedback to the draft, as well as to co-sign it. The letter will go to college provosts and department chairs, with a request that it be shared with all instructors.

**III. ELWR Coordinator Update.**

In the absence of ELWR Coordinator Parmeter, an update will be sent to CPE members by email regarding the college stretch Core Courses offered during 2009-10. These Core Courses are offered over two quarters to better support writing development. Two additional colleges have requested a similar stretch format for College Core Courses to begin in 2010-11.

**IV. Retention Services Response.**

CPE decided to write to Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Services Alma Sifuentes to acknowledge the request made earlier this year to attend a meeting, and to express CPE's support for the work of LSS.

**V. Recommendation for the next committee.**

The Committee formed the following recommendations for the next CPE.

- Recommend to Psychology that they rethink whether to have Math 3 as a preparatory requirement. Encourage them to consider new GE courses.
- Work with Learning Support Services to foster use of Modified Supplemental Instruction.
- Consider how best to ensure that students who enter underprepared for University-level academic work are supported. One idea was to conduct a student survey to better understand the issues for students.
- Consider needs associated with the terminal math requirements (degrees for which one Math course is required). It may be that Social Sciences should collaborate with the Physical and Biological Sciences Division and the School of Engineering to determine how the math needs for Social Sciences Majors will be met. Look into whether Math 4 can accommodate more students.

So attests,

Mary-Kay Gamel, Chair  
Committee on Preparatory Education