

**Committee on Preparatory Education
Minutes
February 15 , 2013
Kerr Hall Room 307, 10:00 -11:30 a.m.**

Present: George Bunch, Gabriel Elkaim, Sarah-Hope Parmeter (ELWR Coordinator), Bruno Mendes (NSTF Rep.), SUA and GSA reps. TBA, David Smith (Chair) via phone, Susanna Wrangell (staff).

Absent: None.

I. Announcements

Chair Smith participated via pod phone.

Members approved of the minutes of December 7, 2012 and January 23, 2013.

There was one correction to the January 23 minutes.

At the UCOPE meeting on January 18, 2013 members voted on a new prompt for the AWPE exam this year which is confidential. Members discuss Open Education, an idea to change AWPE methods of writing. Students would be encouraged to write about their own writing process which past data has proven is not necessarily beneficial to the students, members did not accept this change. AWPE broke even this year and is waiting on lowering rates until the budget stabilizes.

Open Education was on the agenda to address the 10 million dollar allocation of funds by the Governor of California who wants UC to develop more online courses or free online text books for 50 undergraduate courses. For more information see Senate Bills 1052 and 1053.

There was a discussion on changing to Smarter Balance, a consortium on teaching college readiness, and could be thought of as a replacement for AWPE with the adoption of the Early Assessment Program (EAP), which starts in the eleventh grade. The student's readiness for college level English courses are based on their scores. Smarter Balance maybe adopted by the state as a new assessment to measure core requirements for K-12. There will be more information available after the ELWR Systemwide meeting in March and Member Parmeter will update members later in spring. Chair Smith will forward the link to Smarter Balance with examples for members to review.

The budget was also on the agenda, UC is still 240 million dollars short and is working on alternative funding to backfill the shortage. The Chair of the Academic Council updated members on allocation of resources for campuses would be based on a lump sum without the student faculty ratio.

UC discussed making changes to the Carnegie unit competency based discipline and switching to a career based skill competencies. Another option included the Lumina Goal 2025. The degree profiles would be independent of a discipline. Members would like to discuss the foundation at a future agenda. While diversity is less of an issue, the Lumina Foundation is concerned with underprepared students and differential rates of success.

Many UC campuses are currently recruiting international students and there has been a strain on many writing programs. Most of the students are coming from China and do not pass AWPE but also instructors are at a loss as how to teach these underprepared English learners. At UCSC this summer the Writing program will hold a boot camp to address this issue with writing program faculty and others who teach college core courses.

II. Comments on Campus-Wide Purchase of Software for Plagiarism

Members held a follow up discussion from our last meeting. The sense of the committee was that instructors should be encouraged to use the system mostly to get students to rewrite plagiarized work, since misunderstanding of what constitutes plagiarism is extremely prevalent, and probably more so than calculated deception. It was thought that its utility might be greatest in upper division courses, since in preparatory writing courses it is often very clear when the students' writing departs from their own voice. Members found the letter reasonable, Turnitin looks at other papers that are stored on their database and the majority are from high school students. The paper is sent back with highlighted comments, with a score, for example a score of 2% can be ignored, it does not tell you where the phrases are from but you can Google and find out most are in Wikipedia. But no names are associated with the find. Members would like a guarantee that the database does not release out student's papers to the public at large and all the papers should be stored here. It would prevent the release of personal data up to individual faculty. Members agreed to add this sentence:

CPE considers the "gold standard" for privacy in a system like this to be that the vendor completely removes information about the origin and authorship of submitted papers when including them in the database. If this is indeed the practice of the selected vendor, we suggest that this be publicized to faculty to increase their comfort with allowing student papers to be incorporated.

III. Members Items Follow Up

UC ACCORD Consortium on research for diversity update by Member Bunch

Faculty members can apply for a seed grant from this UC Wide organization. It is funding on research for diversity, the focus is on access and equity for traditionally underrepresented populations, some grant funding is from the Gates Foundation. These are typically small grants and can also be dissertation grants for graduate students. Some of the case studies were on success rates for lower income students and their pathway into higher education, looking for indicators of progress through and into higher education.

There is also a link to a database where you can look by school district at the indicators to success based on school districts. Member Bunch will look at specific topics related to preparatory courses that are posted here for a future meeting update.

ELWR Data update by Member Hope Parmeter move to March meeting

MPE Data Follow - up: Analyst Wrangell will invite Professor Weissman to the March meeting for a consultation.

IV. Underprepared Students on Campus and Resources

Our campus is unique and does not have many student lead or supported programs like other UC 's. Many of our students are reticent to seek help, would a peer mentoring model be a more positive outcome? Students like results based on their own input or ideas working with the administration. Departments on campus have tried pilot programs where students who were struggling were required to meet with a faculty adviser every quarter while others were invited only to meet. The students who were invited to meet had a higher rate of meeting than the required students. After a brief discussion members agreed that the Learning Support Services (LSS) is a fantastic resource for most classes on campus and works wonderfully, it is lead by students, it may need better outreach or publicity by the faculty. Members decided instead to write the VPDUE about the membership on his task force for undergraduate success and how it interfaces with the Senate. CPE would like this task force to have one member from CPE, CEP, CAAD and CAFA as these are the major stakeholders. The committee could meet once a quarter, which may be how the structure is currently set up. Chair Smith will draft up a letter and send out to members.

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