

Committee on Preparatory Education Meeting

Minutes

January 25, 2016

Kerr Hall Room 129, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Gabriel Elkaim (Chair), Debra Lewis, Susanna Wrangell (staff).

Absent: Sarah Michals (NSTF Rep.), Sarah-Hope Parmeter (ELWR Coordinator), SUA and GSA Reps.

I. Announcements:

Approved December 2, 2016 meeting minutes.

II. Glossary- Differed

Members were asked to review before the meeting so the glossary can be an up to date reference for committee members.

III. Kresge College Core Proposal – Withdrawn.

Kresge Provost Carson has requested feedback from CEP on the proposal to revise the Core courses at the college and CEP would appreciate input from CPE with regard to the ELWR requirement satisfaction. CEP sent a request to the Writing Program on the possibility of changing the structure of C1 and C2, this is just background information. CEP has requested holding off on reviewing this proposal until a decision has been made on revisions to Core, C1, C2 writing requirements.

IV. Standard Time Slot Schedule Changes Proposal for Senate Committee Review

VPDUE Hughey has created a proposal for CEP to consider with regard to increased enrollments per UCOP mandate. The proposal brings UCSC class meeting times closer to UC standards. The second request is reducing the final examination time block from 3 to 2 hours. To meet departmental fall scheduling needs for next year, the timeline is very short and a response of January 26 is requested (tomorrow). Members held a robust discussion and had the following concerns for the committee response to the Senate Chair:

- MW late 9-10:35 p.m. time slot has many negative implications for students and instructors such as child care, transportation, and safety on campus, attendance rate (which is currently low in course sections held at this time.)
- Classrooms are not at capacity during the class offerings since the current policy is that all enrolled students must fit into the classroom, the truth is only a subset of the class show up, except at exams. Many seats are unfilled during some course lectures.
- CPE prefers not to cut back on teaching instruction time but instead change how the courses are offered during the week. Members are concerned with keeping integrity and rigor in our courses.
- There are 49 instruction days per quarter, distributed among the two-day a week and three-day a week per week classes. If 5 minutes per day is reduced from the MWF time slot, this amounts to reduction of 7% of class time and/or materials for instruction. For the MW/TTH course offerings; this would be 9.5% less. Members agreed this would negatively affect course pedagogy.

- Book classrooms for median/average attendance and have overflow rooms with lectures recorded and rebroadcast, thus students can watch remotely, taking in person quizzes and exams in sections. This allows students a choice and would require no changes in current scheduling other than small tweaks.
- Moving away from a MWF weekly offering to three weekly classroom offerings of two day a week and keep passing time at the 15 minute limit.
- Members were not generally supportive of the change in final examination time block, this is a reduction of 33% time/material to be covered on the final exam necessarily reduces the rigor and breadth of the subject matter. The two hour time block would result in many more students with multiple exams per day, increasing the need to reschedule exams.
- UCSC has a reputation of economic good, our ability to attract good students is based on the institutions reputation of the students we have graduated, maintaining the highest quality of education we can deliver is paramount to keeping UCSC successful in its mission.

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