

**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE
ON
EDUCATIONAL POLICY
2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT**

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

The University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) met seven times in Academic Year 2011-2012 to conduct business with respect to its duties as outlined in [Senate Bylaw 170](#) and in the Universitywide Review Processes for Academic Programs, Academic Units, and Research Units (the "[Compendium](#)"). The major activities of the committee and the issues it addressed this year are outlined briefly, as follows.

UC Online Education

UC's Online Education (UCOE) project continued to dominate UCEP's discussions throughout this academic year and the committee received regular updates on the project's status from the former Vice Provost for Academic Planning, Programs, and Coordination, Dan Greenstein and Faculty Advisor, Keith Williams (currently, interim director). The administration identified policy issues regarding the management of UCOE, a number of which fell under the authority of UCEP. Over the course of several months, the committee developed the [Guidelines for Systemwide Courses](#) to address the policy issues related to the approval and organization of any systemwide courses, including those supported by UCOE. Following this adoption UCOE submitted 4 courses for systemwide approval; of these the Committee approved 2, an additional course was approved subject to campus approval, and one course was not approved.

The guidelines address the enrollment of non-matriculated students and the types of credits they can be awarded. UCEP has concerns about maintaining UC quality in the UCOE courses and, in particular, the impact that large numbers of non-matriculated students will have on matriculated students in the course. An important issue that remained unresolved this year is how non-matriculated students' basic prerequisites will be determined. Additional unsettled questions include which campus will get credit for students taking courses at another campus, how Teaching Assistants will be paid and how the funds will be distributed to the campuses. An overarching concern for UCEP continued to be about the program's focus shifting from its original research orientation to a model to generate revenue from non-UC students.

The Blue Ribbon Panel recommended by UCEP last year convened in April 2012. The panel was given the broad charge of the evaluation team's plans and reports to help inform UCEP and the Council as they make their recommendations about the future conduct of on-line education efforts at UC. The Director of the UC Educational Evaluation Center at UCSB, Dr. Jon Yun, provided an overview of the evaluation of the online instruction project to the Panel. The panel members felt that Dr. Yun can conduct a good evaluation if he is provided with adequate resources. Both UCEP and the Blue Ribbon Panel were alarmed when UCOE notified them in June that a progress report on the evaluation would not be available until sometime after August 2012.

WASC Accreditation

In June 2011, UCEP learned that the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) planned to revise its handbook and adopt the Lumina Foundation's degree qualifications profile. WASC reportedly had concerns about potential mandates, complaints about problems with for-

profits, burdens implied in the previous review process, and students who attend different institutions and are unable to determine if they are getting what they need. Lumina's [degree qualification profile](#) (DQP) is proposed to measure the quality of education in associates, bachelors and masters degree programs. Committee members agreed that the degree quality profile would not be a good tool for UC and Ralph Wolff, President of the Senior College Commission of WASC, was invited to meet with UCEP in November to discuss the DQP and other proposed changes to the handbook. Committee members shared their concerns with President Wolff, making the important point that UC has already done faculty driven work on assessing learning outcomes but the proposed changes will create an unnecessary burden. The president welcomed UCEP's feedback on how WASC can evaluate how institutions are establishing proficiency and build on what is already being done.

A December letter summarizing the discussion was approved by Council, forwarded to the WASC Commission and shared with the members of ICAS. In February, WASC acted to suspend implementation of the action taken in November 2011 regarding defining and assessing the five graduation proficiencies and withheld any further action on the issue of external validation until further consultation is conducted. President Wolff joined UCEP again in May and reported that the Commission was in the process of working through a variety of issues. A report on the feedback received by WASC was to be submitted to the Commission's policy and planning committee, which will meet in mid-June. The plan was for the Commission to identify one or more proposals to circulate to the region for more comment over the summer. President Wolff would like to meet with UCEP again in the fall to report on what has been done, and he stated that UC is the most faculty centered and driven institution around setting standards and would like UC to be a partner with WASC.

UC Education Abroad Program Strategic Plan

The Executive Director of the UC Education Abroad Program, Jean-Xavier Guinard, joined UCEP in February to discuss a new strategic plan. Last year, EAP started developing a strategic plan after talking to a number of stakeholders. The plan includes primary and secondary initiatives, as well as director's initiatives. The plan has three components that reflect UCEAP's vision: study abroad for all, academic excellence and best business practices. Director Guinard indicated that UCEP could assist with advocacy for EAP and for study abroad in general as a part of the undergraduate experience.

UCEP urged the program to make every effort to maintain accessibility for all students, which could help with the long term viability of EAP. UCEP was concerned about the need to provide students with proper advice, so they understand the articulation (or lack thereof) of the courses taken abroad with their home-campus programs. Finally, UCEP encouraged EAP to consider the possibility of targeting some host institutions for areas of excellence, which might facilitate integration and provide incentives for students to participate.

Last Degree of its Kind

UCEP discussed the issue of phasing out degrees that are the last of their kind. The Compendium differentiates between the title and the discipline but it does not clarify what needs to be done when the title of a program is unique, but the Compendium is not clear on whether programs labeled as the "last of their kind" refers to the title or the discipline; upon discussion UCEP opined that it should refer to the discipline, so that program whose academic content is not available elsewhere in the system should undergo system-wide review before being discontinued. UCEP brought this issue to Council and Council instructed UCEP, CCGA and

UCPB to create an ad-hoc joint committee to revise the confusing language in the Compendium. The ad-hoc committee submitted proposed changes to Council in July that aim at clarifying the discontinuance procedures for programs with unique titles (a very rare occurrence) and those that are "the last one of their kind" (a rare occurrence). In August, the Academic Council's recommendation that the Compendium be revised along the lines suggested by UCEP to clarify the discontinuance procedures for undergraduate programs with unique titles or those that are the last of their kind in the UC system was forwarded to the new Provost, Aimée Dorr. Academic Council requested that the recommendation be considered by the Academic Planning Council.

Senate Regulation 610 - Residence

In 2010-11, at the request of UCEP, the University Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction ruled on a close vote that "in residence" in SR 610 refers to courses approved by the relevant UC Senate bodies, rather than physical presence on campus. UCEP concurred with this interpretation, and submitted a proposed revision for systemwide review in the Fall of 2011 to clarify the intent of the regulation. In January 2012, Council discussed the responses to the review, a number of which raised objections, and suggested that UCEP redraft the revisions. UCEP submitted a new revision, taking into account the decisions from R&J, as well as the desire of several campuses to maintain physical presence as a requirement. The Committee voted in favor of replacing the word "residency" by "matriculation" and asked CCGA to discuss the revised wording in the regulations that refer to graduate students. Should UCEP and CCGA agree on the need to revise the regulation, the two committees will present the new language jointly to Council.

Senate Regulation 760 – Credit in Courses

UCEP discussed revisions to Senate Regulation 760 during several meetings. The change to SR 760 is in response to a new Department of Education requirement that all candidate and accredited institutions are required to comply with federal regulations concerning the definition and assignment of credit hours and that accrediting agencies are required to evaluate compliance as part of comprehensive reviews. The University of California has a system-wide regulation ([SR760](#)) that provides a very broad description of how credits are awarded, which, however, is too vague to meet the new requirements. Some divisions have adopted additional regulations that do meet the WASC requirements (in fact WASC uses the UC Berkeley regulations as an example - see <http://www.wascsenior.org/resources/credithour>).

UCEP discussed this issue and in June asked the CEP chairs for feedback on two possible lines of action. The first approach would be to notify the divisions about the new WASC requirement and urge them to adopt appropriate local regulations. This would give the divisions maximum flexibility. The second possibility is for UCEP to propose a modification to SR760 and so deal with the problem at the system-wide level. This approach would provide a broad basic standard for the whole system. The CEP chairs were asked which of the two possibilities would be preferable at their campuses.

UC Washington D.C. Center

Bruce Cain, the Director of UC Washington Center, joined UCEP by phone in April to report on the status of the Center. Director Cain would like to begin thinking about issues that will impact the Center in the longer term including what the center is trying to achieve and how it will support students interested in public service. The Center's Academic Advisory Committee would like UCEP's input on how to improve how the curriculum is organized, including what it would mean if campuses request a standardized curriculum. In June, UCDC submitted a set of courses

to the committee for systemwide approval. UCEP members agreed that the committee should examine the background of instructors and that the affiliation within the UC system or the other qualifications that make the faculty member appropriate should be provided in the future.

UC Science and Mathematics Teacher Initiative

In March, the Chair of the Academic Senate was contacted by the Chair of the Science and Math Initiative Executive Council following a decision by Provost Pitts to transform the CalTeach academic program into a competitive initiative. Chair Anderson asked UCEP to consider whether the new funding model will be advantageous for the program and how UCEP can help. The core funding that pays for staffing and for some of the key lecturers is threatened by the new model.

The committee learned of the successes of the program and was concerned that the program should find itself in such a difficult funding situation. In a May memo to the Academic Council, UCEP suggested that the Senate urges the administration to carefully weigh the impact of the cuts on the SMI CalTeach program and, if cuts are inevitable, to insist that these be implemented in a measured way in order to allow the program to organize an orderly transition to a sustainable funding model.

IGETC for STEM Majors

During its May meeting UCEP reviewed the proposed modification to IGETC, "IGETC for STEM majors" received from ICAS. The Committee was in favor of the UC adopting this proposed path for transfer students. Given the multiplication of such paths and the fact that a similar path was approved recently, UCEP recommended that the formal proposal to the Division be accompanied with a clear description of the existing paths, the points in common with the proposed new one, and the manner in which the proposed adoption will help transfer students interested in the STEM field.

Other Issues and Additional Business

In response to requests for formal comment from the Academic Council, UCEP also issued views on the following:

- Copyright Recommendations for UC
- BOARS Transfer Proposal
- APMs 010, 015 and 016
- National Association of Scholars' "Crisis of Competence" Report
- Proposal to Establish the UCI School of Education

UCEP touched on a variety of other issues related to the business of the Academic Council, Academic Assembly, the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates, and the work of campus Committees on Educational Policy.

UCEP Representation

UCEP Chair Jose Wudka represented the committee at meetings of the Academic Council, and Academic Assembly, and regularly attended meetings of the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates. Chair Wudka also participated on the UCDC Governing Council and a group advising UCOP on the development of UCOE.

Committee Consultations and Acknowledgements

UCEP benefited from consultation and reports from Daniel Greenstein, Vice Provost, Academic Planning, Programs and Coordination; Hilary Baxter, Associate Director, Academic Planning, Programs and Coordination; and Shawn Brick, Associate Director, Transfer Admissions Policy.

In addition, UCEP consulted the Academic Senate chair and vice-chair, who updated the committee on issues facing the Academic Council and Senate.

Respectfully submitted,

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