UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE
ON
EDUCATIONAL POLICY

2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:
The University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) met nine times in Academic Year 2013-2014 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.

Systemwide Course Approval Guidelines
Council considered UCEP's criteria for systemwide courses in July and voiced several concerns. The primary question was whether UCEP should have any role in designating a course for system-wide listing. In October, the committee began to review the criteria and one goal was to eliminate the need for UCEP to deal with any courses that have been approved by the campuses. There was a concern that UCEP would become involved in assessing the quality of courses and overstepping established divisional policies. Committee members agreed that any regular campus course can be designated as a systemwide course and that if it has been approved by a campus Committee on Courses, then UCEP will not reevaluate it on its merits. Another goal was to make the guidelines flexible to accommodate different circumstances. The new "UCEP Guidelines for Systemwide Course Approvals" were reviewed and accepted by Council in December 2013.

Evaluation of the Online Instruction Pilot Project (OIPP)
The Blue Ribbon Panel (BRP) appointed to review the evaluation of the Online Instruction Pilot Project received an unedited, 1000+ page copy of the Main Evaluation Report in November 2013. The evaluation was performed by the UC Educational Evaluation Center at UC Santa Barbara. UCEP endorsed the BRP's main findings, and its conclusion that the UCEC's evaluation report did not provide sufficient information about student performance and learning outcomes for an appropriate evaluation of the OIPP program, now known as UC Online Education (UCOE). The evaluation report also did not respond to the BRP's requests to UCOE in November 2012 and February 2013 for a broader analysis and objective data on costs and student outcomes. UCEP's memo was endorsed by the Academic Council in April and forwarded with the Panel's report to Provost Dorr. Although there has been no response to the memos from the administration, in May Chair Jacob reported to UCEP that an RFP for the evaluation of online courses is being prepared. The evaluation will attempt to look at some of the issues raised by the Blue Ribbon Panel which include costs, including hidden costs, the level of support provided and student satisfaction.

Communications Hub and Cross Campus Enrollment
In the Spring, UCEP responded to requests from the UCOE Interim Director for feedback related to the proposed communications hub and the cross campus enrollment system. Specifically, UCEP reviewed the UCOE documents entitled "Project Overview for Cross Campus Enrollment," including the Appendix "Cross-Campus Enrollment System Questions, Issues Risks," aimed at streamlining the recently created centralized online UC registration for matriculated and nonmatriculated students. In its March 14th memo to Council Chair Jacob, UCEP noted that the committee had persistently been given an inadequate timeframe to provide meaningful input and that the approach that the HUB leadership has taken in this regard has caused serious and lasting concerns regarding the quality, vision, and future of the effort. Although the committee agreed that a complete central registration system interfacing seamlessly with every campus would be useful, UCEP cautioned that it would be premature to move to an RFP for creation of a centralized online registration system. Committee members believe that there is not a critical

mass of online courses and/or cross campus online course enrollees to justify the high cost of developing and implementing a complex computer system.

In a June 2nd memo, UCEP responded to the UCOE Interim Director's document titled "Issues related to the cross-campus enrollment pilot and the simultaneous enrollment policies that have been used for enabling cross-campus enrollment." The committee received a report from Council Chair Jacob in February that cross campus enrollment through the UCOE website had produced sixty students systemwide for the winter quarter and spring semester. The memo indicated that UCEP members did not interpret the absence of cross-campus enrollment as a problem and continue to support the investigation of issues associated with cross-campus enrollment. UCEP pointed out that the changes proposed by the administration would necessitate broad changes to existing policies and practices not in keeping with the authority reserved by each campus's faculty over curricular matters. UCEP suggested continued negotiation with each division over issues such as enrollment and registration, articulation and fees. UCEP will look forward to discussing these issues further in the coming academic year.

Senate Regulation 760 – Credit in Courses
In October, UCEP resumed the debate over how to address a requirement by WASC that all the institutions it accredits must provide a reasonable and transparent formula that describes the manner in which course credits are awarded. Senate Regulation SR760 provides a very broad description of how credits are awarded but it is, however, too vague to meet these new requirements. At the beginning of 2014, UCEP sent a letter to the divisions instructing them to determine whether their definition is sufficiently clear to comply with the new WASC regulation and to submit their definitions to UCEP. Although the divisions will work on revisions to this regulation, UCEP understands that there may eventually be a need for a systemwide policy revision.

Transfer Issues
In November, President Napolitano announced the formation of a team charged with recommending ways to both raise the number of students who transfer to UC from community colleges and improve their success at the university. The team was led by Provost Aimée Dorr and co-chaired by Judy Sakaki, UC vice president of student affairs, and George Johnson, chair of UC's Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools. It included the chairs of UCEP and UCOPE, a former transfer student, and a number of campus leaders in transfer services across the system as well as key individuals at UCOP who would conduct research and implement the plan. The team was divided into four areas: admissions and articulation, outreach and preparation, transitions and orientation and one on enrollment growth and impact. Chair Labor briefed the committee on the team's progress as it met from December to April. The team's report "Preparing California for its Future: Enhancing Community College Student Transfer to UC" was presented to the Regents in May. UCEP will monitor the implementation of the team's recommendations.

AP Credit
UCEP discussed the appropriate use of AP English exams to satisfy divisional requirements after matriculation in April. UCOPE had identified this issue and in 2013 the committee surveyed the campuses to see if there is uniformity in following Senate regulations in terms of the writing requirement. The regulation requires campuses to count SAT, AP and other tests towards the satisfaction of the Entry Level Writing Requirement even if the students have failed the AWPE. It was not surprising to find out that the responding campuses are using the AP guideline that a score of 3 or better will satisfy the ELWR. UCOPE was concerned about the divergence of how campuses use the scores above 3 to exclude students from some or all of their writing requirements subsequent to the basic writing requirement. It is not problematic that in some cases, higher scores would exempt students from some of the lower division writing requirements. But some of the six campuses go further than this. UCEP agreed to investigate this matter with UCOPE. As a first step, UCEP members edited a draft memo prepared by UCOPE and forwarded the memo to BOARS in June and is currently awaiting feedback.

Other Issues and Additional Business
In response to requests for formal comment from the Academic Council, UCEP also issued views on the following:
- Self-Supporting Graduate Degree Programs
- UC Hispanic Serving Institutions Initiative and Proposal to Establish a Regents Diversity Fellowship
- All UC Doctoral Student Support Conference

UCEP made curricular recommendations under its charge (four systemwide courses and the UC Davis Optical Science and Engineering program discontinuance) and 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 Tim Labor represented the committee at meetings of the Academic Council, and Academic Assembly, and regularly attended meetings of the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates. Chair Labor also participated on the President's Transfer Action Team, the Provost's monthly budget briefing teleconferences, and the Academic Planning Council.

Committee Consultations and Acknowledgements
UCEP benefited from consultation and reports from Hilary Baxter, Associate Director, Academic Planning, Programs and Coordination; Keith Williams, Interim Director, UCOE; Shawn Brick, Associate Director, Transfer Admissions Policy; and Steve Handel, Vice President, Undergraduate Admissions.

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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