

**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY (UCEP)  
2003-2004 ANNUAL REPORT**

**TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:**

The University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) met seven times during Academic Year 2003-04 to conduct its 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:

**The Budget Crisis and its Effect on Enrollment.** UCEP held ongoing discussions related to the state and university budget crisis. In November, the committee submitted comments to Council analyzing potential options that were being considered to address the legislature's decision not to fund new enrollment growth. The committee outlined several possible approaches, and ultimately favored managing enrollment yield at the level of campus acceptance rates rather than at eligibility. The committee also proposed a set of principles that it felt should guide the decision-making process, emphasizing above all continued adherence to the Master Plan for Higher Education and the preservation of educational and instructional quality. Finally, UCEP members' aggregate ranking of 17 options to limit enrollment were tabulated into a Senatwide "score card" total.

**State Budget Mandate on Higher Fees.** In a February letter to Council, UCEP spoke against the possible implementation of a state budget mandate to charge higher fees for students who exceed by more than 10% the minimum number of credit units required for graduation. The committee remarked that the mandate was poor educational policy, and could hurt students with double majors, those who enter UC with Advanced Placement or community college credits, and pre-med and engineering majors who routinely need an additional semester to complete their degrees. UCEP also disagreed with estimates that the mandate would save \$9.4 million. However, UCEP recommended that if UC was forced to implement the mandate, the university should adhere to four principles that would be least harmful to the educational mission of the university. Council unanimously approved UCEP's principles, and a summary document was forwarded to President Dynes.

**Disenrollment.** On two occasions, UCEP submitted comments to Council on the option of disenrolling students subject to dismissal for poor academic performance or failure to meet minimum progress. In a January letter, UCEP noted the importance of student progress, but objected to stricter application of disenrollment rules as a means to solve the university's financial problems. The committee asked that campus Senates take steps to involve themselves more in gathering data and monitoring the issue. Later, the committee learned that most campuses do not regularly keep data on the issue, although UCEP did review data from one campus indicating a high number of students subject to dismissal and a correspondingly low dismissal rate. In a June letter to Council, UCEP asked that each campus Committee on Educational Policy require a systematic, annual reporting from the Deans on the numbers of students in various probationary categories,

and report that data to UCEP. Next year, UCEP plans to study these systemwide numbers and convey a set of recommendations to Academic Council.

**Impediments to Intercampus Course Enrollment through SR 544.** UCEP developed a document affirming the value of Senate Regulation 544, which was crafted with the help of UC Director of Intercampus Academic Program Coordination, Julie Gordon. UCEP expressed concern that not all campuses had developed a mechanism to actually implement 544, which gives students the right to enroll concurrently and receive credit for courses taken on UC campuses other than their own; that the opportunity is not widely known; and that other obstacles impede its use beyond a case-by-case basis. UCEP's document affirmed the principle that the university should strive to minimize barriers to students taking maximum advantage of educational opportunities and resources. It described various impediments to course sharing and proposed ways to better publicize the opportunity and to strengthen existing procedures and regulations, including policy related to faculty and student credit, the course enrollment and approval process, and the role of the registrar. Academic Council endorsed UCEP's SR 544 document, and forwarded it to the Provost for distribution to campuses.

**Distance Learning and Hybrid Courses.** UCEP met with Robert Blake and Kathleen Dillon, Director and Associate Director of the UC Consortium for Language, Learning and Teaching, a systemwide initiative that also depends upon the smooth implementation of SR 544. The Consortium aims to preserve language resources and enhance cross-campus student access to the less commonly taught languages through course sharing technologies like the Internet and videoconferencing. UCEP endorsed the concept of technology-enabled distance learning, and the notion that such instructional models can give students a wider range of curricular options. UCEP also reviewed two procedural documents used by two local Committees on Courses when reviewing and approving courses with a "hybrid" instructional format using an online or distance component. UCEP members distributed these procedures to their campus committees as examples on which to base local versions.

**Senate Regulation 630.** Academic Council approved a UCEP request to grant a variance to the residency requirement for students in the UC Sacramento Pilot Program (UCCS), which makes the UCCS exception identical to that for the Education Abroad and UC Washington Center programs. The UCR Office of Student Academic Affairs also asked UCEP to consider changing Regulation 630 to allow for specific residency policy to be set at the local level, but UCEP decided it did not see a compelling reason to relax or get rid of the requirement in favor of local control. Finally, UCEP asked Council to eliminate SR 630b, which provides an out-of-date exception to the residency requirement for students in Colleges of Engineering.

**Reports on Faculty Instructional Activities.** In December, UCEP commented on two reports produced by the Faculty Instructional Activity Task Force. The committee endorsed the value of a new system to report faculty instructional activities to the legislature in a more comprehensive and accurate way, clarifying the diversity of ways UC faculty deliver education and instruction. Members also consulted with their local

COCIs about how those committees would work with campus registrars in implementing the new system of course categorization.

**Transfer Articulation.** UCEP discussed two proposed state senate bills affecting articulation and transfer agreements among California colleges and universities, as well as some negative impressions, confusion and problems involved in transfer to UC. Eric Taggart, director of ASSIST (Articulation System Stimulating Interinstitutional Student Transfer), joined UCEP by phone to discuss his work and UC's possible participation in the California Articulation Number Board (CAN). UCEP sent a memo to ICAS in support of UC's participation in CAN at the level of writing extended course descriptors and by using the descriptors to the greatest extent possible to define what is expected of transfers.

**UCEP Review of Domestic Off Site Academic Programs.** UCEP agreed to a Council request to accept as part of the committee's charge the review and approval of university-wide domestic academic programs and courses. This includes but is not restricted to such courses and programs as UCCS, UCDC, and the language consortium, and UCEP approval would come only after a course has gone through the approval process at the home campus of record. UCEP approval will preserve faculty input, but will save the time and resources needed to shop a proposal around to each campus. Council approved language for the bylaw changes that will enable the implementation of this approval process. The bylaw change will go to Assembly next year.

**Alignment of Campus Calendars.** In November, UCEP resubmitted to Council a previous year's recommendation that quarter-based campuses align their calendars and semester-based campuses align theirs. The committee argued that calendar alignment would save UC resources, promote intercampus cooperation and facilitate more efficient use of fully funded summer sessions, Education Abroad, and multicampus programs like UCDC and UC Center in Sacramento, as well as greater use of simultaneous intercampus enrollment via Regulation 544. Calendar alignment would broaden educational opportunity and work for the general educational benefit of all students. Council unanimously endorsed UCEP's sentiments and forwarded a recommendation to the Provost. In August, the committee developed and submitted a lengthier, more formal recommendation, which it expects Council to review, endorse and forward to the administration.

**Report of the Professorial Step System Task Force.** UCEP discussed the Step System Task Force Report in the context of its educational policy implications—the positive or negative influence the UC personnel system can have on faculty morale and teaching effectiveness. UCEP members were split in their support of the Task Force's recommendation to eliminate the barrier step review, but said the University should have the best possible system, one that keeps faculty active and productive over time and avoids unnecessary disincentives to their full engagement in educational delivery.

**Additional business:** UCEP regarded its charge and purview broadly, taking the view that the majority of Senate issues have at least some educational policy implications. UCEP also issued formal responses on the following:

- BOARS' Proposed New Eligibility Criteria.
- UCPB Resolution on Graduate Student Support.
- Comments to BOARS about a UCD professor's request to add Earth and Space Sciences to the Core Subject List.
- Comments about a UCOPE proposal to set a maximum class size for the entry-level writing requirement.
- UCAAD's revisions to APM 210, 240, 245.
- Review of APM 278 and 279 – Clinical Professor Series.
- Proposed Revised Family Friendly Policies – APM 133, 210, 220, 760.
- Proposed Policies on Sexual Harassment and Conflicts of Interest Created by Consensual Relationships.
- UCD proposal for a Graduate School of the Environment.
- UCLA request for a variance to Senate Regulation 764.
- UCI proposal to reconstitute its College of Medicine as the School of Medicine.
- UCLA request to change the name of its School of Public Policy.
- Academic Senate Proposal for Online Posting of Committee Minutes.

**Other:** UCEP also discussed issues related to buy-out policy and sabbatical accrual, UC Merced Planning, the business of Academic Council, Academic Assembly and ICAS, and the work of campus Committees on Educational Policy and Courses of Instruction.

**UCEP Representation:** UCEP's Chair represented the committee at meetings of the Academic Council, the Academic Assembly, Academic Planning Council, the UCDC Steering Committee, the AP Honors Task Force, and the Implementation Task Force for Faculty Instructional Workload. The Vice-Chair represented UCEP on the Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates (ICAS) and the UC Merced Task Force. Finally, UCEP nominated one of its members for service on the Academic Council Special Committee on Scholarly Communications.

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Respectfully submitted,

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