

**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY (UCEP)
2006-2007 ANNUAL REPORT**

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

The University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) met five times in Academic Year 2006-07 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:

The Role of Graduate Students in University Instruction

UCEP and the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) reviewed responses from systemwide committees and divisions to the joint 2006 UCEP/CCGA report, *The Role of Graduate Students in University Instruction*, and submitted a revised set of policy recommendations to Academic Council. CCGA and UCEP were responding to a Council request to consider the appropriate degree and manner for the use of graduate students in instruction and to review the policies, practices, and quality control mechanisms governing graduate student teaching. A UCEP/CCGA subcommittee held three teleconference meetings to craft a new set of recommendations that maintained the primary goals of the 2006 document, responded to concerns raised by reviewers, and maximized the flexibility of individual campuses to implement the recommendations within the context of local practices and needs.

Although UCEP and CCGA withdrew several proposals originally recommended as mandates, the committees reinforced their conviction that faculty mentoring and oversight were an essential component of any instructional role taken on by a student at UC. UCEP and CCGA retained their recommendation to eliminate the distinction between lower and upper division courses in Senate Regulation 750 and APM 4104a, and to apply policies and procedures for graduate student instruction uniformly across all undergraduate courses. In addition, the committees recommended revisions to the Teaching Assistant Conditions for Employment to more accurately reflect the way the TA title is applied on campuses. They also recommended that the use of graduate student instructors in large-enrollment lower or upper division classes take place only under unusual circumstances. All proposed policies and regulations were intended to apply to all state-supported instruction – both during regular-term and in summer.

In March, a UCEP/CCGA/UCAF Work Group met to compare the language in the UCEP/CCGA report with UCAF’s *Student Freedom of Scholarly Inquiry Principles* document to ensure that the concepts of student rights and responsibilities in each were consistent and aligned.

Academic Council released the revised report in July for a second round of systemwide review.

Streamlining Articulation and Transfer Preparation Paths

Undergraduate Admissions Director Susan Wilbur joined UCEP at several meetings to discuss the implementation of Senate Resolution [477](#) (Streamlining the Major Preparation Course Articulation Process), [California Senate Bill 652](#), and *UC Transfer Preparation Paths*, which are intended to facilitate the transfer of students from California Community Colleges to UC. UCEP

reviewed a series of *Transfer Path* draft documents covering systemwide and campus-specific requirements for the chemistry major that were revised over the course of the year to reflect UCEP suggestions.

In May, UCEP and BOARS proposed a consultation and review process involving local Senate faculty for vetting and approving future *Transfer Paths*. Senate Chair Oakley forwarded that proposal to divisional Senate chairs with a request that the chairs designate a local committee to oversee faculty participation in the local implementation of the *Transfer Paths* initiative.

Academic Planning Council Undergraduate Education Planning Group

Provost Rory Hume established a joint faculty-administration Academic Planning Council planning group to examine the future of undergraduate education at UC. The Planning Group originally had been proposed by UCEP as a way to formally consider various 21st Century challenges for undergraduate education and make long-term program planning recommendations. In November, Provost Hume and Special Assistant Carol Copperud joined UCEP to discuss the mission and composition of the group. UCEP also sent a memo to the provost proposing a draft mission statement to guide the work of the group and recommending a preliminary list of critical themes and areas of undergraduate education in need of greater analysis. The UCEP chair and vice chair served as UCEP's representatives to the Planning Group for the remainder of 2006-07.

Proposed systemwide cap on the size of Entry Level Writing Requirement Classes

Academic Council asked UCEP and the University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE) to propose a Senate regulation to codify a systemwide cap on the class size of entry level writing requirement (ELWR) courses. The 2004-2005 UCEP had reviewed the issue and endorsed a cap of between 15 and 20 students per section, but in a memo to Council, the 2006-07 committee expressed concern that without additional funding, an ELWR cap could have a negative impact on other academic areas, including upper division writing programs, and could increase pressure on classroom space. UCEP reaffirmed its recommendation for campuses to make smaller ELWR class sections a priority, but decided to oppose the imposition of a mandate on individual campuses and the proposed modification to Senate Regulation 636 until the resource question was settled. At the end of the year, Council released UCOPE's proposed amendment to Senate Regulation 636 for systemwide review.

University of California Center in Washington DC Systemwide Course

In June, UCEP reviewed a proposed systemwide elective course – “California on the Hill” – being offered at the UC Center in Washington (UCDC). In 2004, UCEP's charge had been modified to include the approval of undergraduate courses as systemwide courses. In 2006, UCEP discussed UCDC's desire for UCEP to act as the approving committee for UCDC systemwide courses, as well as a vetting and approval process for such courses. UCEP asked campus Registrars for advice about the appropriate mechanism for getting California on the Hill and future systemwide courses, once approved, listed in all campus catalogs. The Registrars responded with a number of questions about the UCDC course and the process of course approval. UCEP unanimously approved the California on the Hill as a systemwide course subject to receiving additional information from UCDC and the Registrars.

ICAS C-ID Proposal

At its November meeting, California Community College (CCC) Treasurer Jane Patton joined UCEP to discuss “C-ID,” a proposal from the CCC Academic Senate for a common lower division major preparation course numbering system for courses approved by UC and CSU campuses as meeting articulation standards. UCEP identified a few potential problems and concerns with the proposal and submitted a memo to ICAS Chair and Academic Senate Vice Chair Michael Brown. UCEP’s vice chair also served on ICAS’ C-ID Task Force.

Other Issues and Additional Business

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

- **CCGA’s proposed amendments to Senate Regulation 694 and new SR 695**
- **The University Committee on Academic Personnel report - “Synopsis of the Present Status of the UC Merit and Promotion System and Principles of and Policy Recommendations for UC Faculty Compensation”**
- **UCAP’s proposed modifications to APM Policies 220-18b (4) Advancement to Step VI and Above Scale**
- **University Committee on International Education proposal for “In Association With” degrees**
- **Proposed amendments to APM 620, Policy on Off-Scale Salaries**
- **The faculty role in the Regents’ Proposition 209 study**
- **The Regents’ proposed RE-89 – Adoption of Policy Restricting University Acceptance of Funding From the Tobacco Industry**
- **Proposed Senate Bylaw 16 – Executive Director**
- **Proposed amendment to Senate Bylaw 181 – Information Technology and Telecommunications Policy Committee**
- **Proposed policy on the stewardship of electronic information**
- **Position Description for a proposed Vice President - International Affairs**
- **The University Committee on Academic Freedom’s proposed Student Freedom of Scholarly Inquiry Principles.**
- **The Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates’ Proposed Resolution on the Proper Use of the California High School Exit Exam**
- **Request from UC Irvine for variances to Senate Regulations 780 and 810A**
- **Request from UC Merced for approval of UC Merced Regulation 50 (Variance to Senate Regulation 780) and New UC Merced Regulation 75 – Honors at Graduation**

UCEP also discussed grading policy differences, grade standardization and grade inflation; the “Pick-a-Prof” website and the possibility of pursuing recommendations for how faculty should

address the new public availability of GPAs; policies for awarding extra GPA credit for an A+ versus an A; the possibility of adding Earth and Space Sciences as a fourth core laboratory science option in UC's "d" and "g" admissions requirements; impacted majors; and issues related to the business of the Academic Council, Academic Assembly, and the work of campus Committees on Educational Policy.

UCEP Representation

UCEP's chair represented the committee at meetings of the Academic Council, Academic Assembly, and the Academic Planning Council, and regularly attended meetings of the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates, and ICAS' GE Breadth/IGETC Alignment Task Force.

Committee Consultations and Acknowledgements

UCEP benefited from regular consultation and reports on transfer issues from Director of Undergraduate Admissions Susan Wilbur. In addition, UCEP occasionally consulted the Academic Senate chair and vice-chair, who updated the committee on issues facing the Academic Council and Senate, and the systemwide Senate executive director, who spoke to UCEP about committee and administrative matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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Keith Williams, Vice-Chair (UCD)
Omer Blaes (UCSB)
Linda Egan (UCD-spring)
Lowell Gallagher (UCLA)
Kim Griest (UCSD)
Alessa Johns (UCD-fall)
David Kay (UCI)
Pierre Keller (UCR)
Manuel Martin-Rodriguez (UCM)
Jaye Padgett (UCSC)
Henry Sanchez (UCSF)

Benson Tongue (UCB)
Cynthia Pineda (Graduate student-UCLA)
Martin Kohan (Undergraduate student-UCB)
Igor Tregub (Undergraduate student alternate-UCB)
Nan Zhang (Undergraduate student alternate-UCB)
John Oakley, Academic Senate Chair, UCD
Michael Brown, Academic Senate Vice-Chair, UCSB
Michael LaBriola, Committee Analyst