

**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
ANNUAL REPORT 2000-2001**

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

The University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) met 8 times during the 2000-2001 academic year. State-funded summer sessions, proposed changes to admissions policies, and the impact of graduate student enrollment on the quality of undergraduate education were the issues that occupied the major part of UCEP's agenda for the year.

State-Funded Summer Sessions. UC and the state legislature concluded relatively late in the planning cycle that state-funded summer sessions would have to play a major role in helping the university accommodate the additional 60,000 students known as Tidal Wave II. Berkeley, Los Angeles, and Santa Barbara were selected to be the first three campuses to stage a fully funded summer session beginning the summer of 2001. In preparation for the state-supported summer instruction, the Office of the President formed a Task Force on Intercampus Summer Enrollment, whose membership included both the UCEP Chair and Vice Chair, to develop policies on campus/intercampus registration and transfer of credit. It was anticipated that some students would opt to take courses at UC campuses closer to their homes rather than at their regular campuses. This raised questions about the current policies and procedures for transferring the credit of UC intercampus students. In an effort to remove any actual or perceived barriers to summer enrollment at a non-home campus, UCEP reviewed the Senate Regulations governing both registration and residency. The Committee proposed a clarification in the wording of SR 544 (on registration) to ensure that it also included the transfer of credits for non-simultaneous enrollment at another UC campus. UCEP also proposed a change to SR 690 (on residency) that would remove the limit on the number of units a student could earn during the summer in order to satisfy the in-residence requirement. The rationale was that since the state-funded summer program is intended to function like any other academic term there is no longer a need to set a limit on units. The proposed changes to SR 544 were approved at the February Assembly meeting, and the changes to SR 690 were approved at the May Assembly meeting. A set of recommended policies on the expanded summer session, intended as a guide for campuses, was drafted by the Task Force on Intercampus Summer Enrollment. In its review of the draft, UCEP recommended that an additional guideline should be included that would give UC students priority in enrollment. This recommendation was incorporated in the final version that was endorsed by the Academic Council.

Admissions Policies. In March of 1999, the Regents approved the Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC) admissions path, and it was implemented in the 2001 admissions cycle. In this program, high school juniors, whose GPA in UC required courses falls in the top 4% of their local schools and who have completed 11 UC mandated courses, are declared eligible for UC admission. This year, the President proposed a new alternative admissions path that would both augment the eligibility in the local context program and also reinforce the university's commitment to increase community college transfers, as agreed to in the Master Plan. The dual admissions program (DAP) would identify high school students who are in the top 12.5% of their junior class but who do not meet UC's admissions criteria. They would be given the opportunity to apply to UC and be guaranteed admission; if they enrolled first at a community college and successfully completed all of their lower division requirements. This path would enable UC to tap into a more diverse pool of candidates and assist in preparing them for UC entry. In their

endorsement of this proposal, UCEP members concluded that DAP would give a genuine chance and more importantly, encouragement and guidance to those students who might not otherwise have the opportunity to attend a UC. The proposal was sent to the Academic Assembly in May where it was approved. Two other admissions-related issues, which arose from a Conference on Freshman Admission Policy held last December, were comprehensive reviews of all applicants (the elimination of the currently mandated 2-tiered selection process) and the role of the SAT I. These issues are currently under intense debate, with the goal of bringing a proposal to the Assembly in the Fall 2001. At the request of the Academic Council Chair, the Chair, Vice Chair and UCEP members have worked closely with BOARS in reviewing and commenting on all proposed admissions changes. The UCEP Chair has attended most of the BOARS meetings, which have evolved into intense 2-day working sessions that were also convened well into the summer months. BOARS Chair Dorothy Perry attended one UCEP meeting during the spring to brief members on the ongoing deliberations of her committee. UCEP will continue to monitor the discussions and review all proposals for change in existing admissions policies. It is hoped that the Divisional representatives on UCEP will carry these discussions back to their home campuses in order to involve a broader cross section of the faculty in these important decisions.

Impact of Graduate Student Enrollment on the Quality of Undergraduate Education. The expansion of undergraduate student enrollment coupled with the declining ratio of graduate to undergraduate students has become a concern for UCEP, particularly as it affects the quality of undergraduate education. Because of the low number of graduate students, campuses are resorting increasingly to hiring undergraduates as TAs, especially in the sciences. In addition, course offerings are in some cases being reduced and class sizes increased. There is also an increase in the use of Unit-18 Lecturers as the hiring of Senate faculty is lagging significantly behind the dramatic increase in undergraduate enrollments. As the number of undergraduates continues to grow, it will become increasingly important to have a systematic review and monitoring of stated campus policies on undergraduate instruction to ensure that the appropriate balance between the use of lecturers, graduate TA's, and regular rank faculty is maintained to ensure instructional quality.

Unit-18 Lecturers. One issue that emerged from negotiations with the Unit-18 Lecturers Union this year was that the Lecturers would like to have their perspective included in the Senates' discussions. They feel it is important that their role in handling the undergraduate curriculum and workload is understood and appreciated on the campuses. The Academic Council Chair urged UCEP members to encourage their local CEPs to consider ways to involve Lecturers in their Committees, either as formal members or as regular consultants. Given the significant reliance by the university on Unit-18 Lecturers to deliver many of the lower division courses, UCEP members agreed that this group should be represented in Senate discussions.

Education Abroad Program (EAP). While the state-funded summer session is one strategy for coping with Tidal Wave II, another is to expand the university's Education Abroad Program in order to off-load some students to campuses abroad. The EAP has been asked by the university to triple its student enrollment. John Marcum, Director of the University Office of the EAP and Margo Hendricks, Chair of the University Committee on EAP attended a UCEP meeting to describe the program and to explain EAP's growth strategy. The primary goal is to make the opportunity to study overseas available to a much broader range of students by offering more program options and increasing financial resources. Over the past two years, the rate of student participation has grown by 15%, and this level of growth is expected to continue. A major

disincentive for many students to go abroad is that they must petition their Departments to receive credit in their Major or to the Registrar to receive general education credit, with no assurances that it will be granted. UCEP endorsed the following suggestions, as made by the UCEAP Chair, to partially remedy this problem: 1) Encourage faculty to draft the Major requirements in such a way that EAP is a preferred, or at least a possible option; 2) Include EAP courses that would satisfy some of the Major requirements, in the catalog course descriptions; and 3) Encourage local EAP and CEPs to work together to address the Departments' policy on awarding major credit to EAP students. In addition, the University Office on EAP is prepared to send representatives to campuses to talk about how to integrate the EAP with Departmental programs.

Proposed New Schools/Programs. During this academic year, UCEP reviewed and submitted formal recommendations to the Academic Council Chair on the following proposals/prospectuses:

UCLA Global Film School

UCR School of Law

UCI School of Law

UCSD Graduate School of Management

UCD Proposals to Reconstitute Division of Education

UCD Graduate School of Environment

Preliminary Proposals from Five Campuses to Develop New Schools or Colleges

UCEP Representation: The Chair or in some cases a member represented UCEP on the following Committees during the year: Academic Council, Academic Planning Council, Intersegmental Council of Academic Senates (ICAS), Education Financing Model Steering Committee, Standing Committee on Copyright, UC Merced Task Force, MOU Implementation Committee, BOARS, Task Force on Intercampus Summer Enrollment, UCDC Advisory Committee, Master Plan Advisory Group, Work Group on Student Learning of the Joint Legislative Committee to Review the Masterplan for Education K-University.

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Respectfully submitted:

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