

**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY (UCEP)  
2004-2005 ANNUAL REPORT**

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

The University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) met six times in Academic Year 2004-05 and held one conference call 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:

**Students in Academic Difficulty:**

Last year, the Senate became concerned about the issue of students in academic difficulty after data from at least two campuses indicated there could be significant numbers of students at UC subject to dismissal for either poor academic performance or failure to meet minimum progress, combined with a correspondingly low dismissal rate. Academic Council asked UCEP to collect data from the campuses on the issue. The committee began by developing a template data request. Berkeley Registrar Susanna Castillo-Robson joined UCEP by phone for a discussion of what data might be available from her office, and she forwarded UCEP’s template to her divisional colleagues, who responded to UCEP with comments and suggestions. The committee then sent a memo through Council to campus divisions, summarizing the history of the issue, and asking each campus Committee on Educational Policy to request an annual report from the Deans on the numbers of students in various probationary categories as well as their policies to address students in academic difficulty, and to report that data to UCEP. The template was sent as a suggested model for data collection. By the end of summer 2005, UCEP had received several responses, but not enough for a definitive report. UCEP recommended that the 2005-2006 Academic Council decide whether to pursue this project further.

**Transfer and Articulation Issues:**

Proposal to Streamline the Major Articulation Process between UC and CCC:

UCEP endorsed a proposal to streamline the major preparation course articulation process to improve student transfer from California Community Colleges to UC. The proposal was later codified by the Academic Assembly as Senate Regulation 477. In a letter to Council, UCEP noted the topics it felt should be addressed in the implementation of 477. Academic Council asked UCEP to be the lead Senate committee next year in charge of monitoring implementation.

Science Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (SciGETC):

UCEP endorsed a preliminary version of SciGETC – and later in the year – the amendment to Senate Regulation 478 that would implement the final version. UCEP noted that SciGETC would improve communication from UC about the course preparation necessary to be a successful transfer major in Science, and would help ensure that prospective Science and Math transfers entered UC with the background necessary to be successful and graduate on time.

Consultation with Student Academic Services:

Department of Student Academic Services staff Margaret Heisel and Barbara Hoblitzell joined UCEP in June to ask for closer communication with the Senate on transfer issues. Student Academic Services wishes to provide faculty with a coherent view on these issues from the Student Affairs perspective, and to get feedback from faculty about how to implement new

policies most effectively. Next year, UCEP and the Senate will work with Student Academic Services on the implementation of SR 477 and other issues. A proposed timeline for action will be developed, and work will commence during the summer if faculty schedules allow. Student Academic Services also asked for UCEP's assistance next year in a study of transfer student transcripts to determine the causes of excess unit accumulation and patterns of enrollments into various majors.

#### **Writing Class Size:**

Academic Council asked UCEP to gather data on the resource implications of a UCOPE proposal to limit entry-level writing requirement sections to between 15 and 20 students per section. UCEP requested data from campuses estimating the increased cost of bringing the campuses into compliance with this standard. After reviewing the data and UCOPE's report on the benefits of reduced ELWR class size, UCEP submitted a recommendation to Council that campuses voluntarily adhere to UCOPE's proposed standard, and that the reduced levels be a high priority for new funds from the state Compact and other sources. In addition, UCEP advised that data on the effectiveness of local ELWR courses be collected in an ongoing effort, including data that would indicate how well students perform as writers in other classes after they have taken the ELWR. In July, the Academic Council reviewed and endorsed the proposal and forwarded a recommendation to the Provost.

#### **UCD Proposal to Reconstitute the Division of Biological Sciences as the College of Biological Sciences:**

In accordance with Compendium procedures, UCEP acted as the lead committee in the review of a Davis proposal to reconstitute the UCD Division of Biological Sciences as a College. UCEP submitted questions and concerns directly to UC Davis regarding the proposal in October, which were answered and addressed in January. The committee noted that the educational policy questions had been sufficiently addressed and recommended to Academic Council approval of the reconstitution.

#### **Undergraduate Experience Survey Project:**

In February, UCB Director of Student Research Gregg Thomson and UCSB Professor Richard Flacks joined UCEP to discuss the UC Undergraduate Experience Survey Project (UCUES), a joint institutional/academic effort to collect systemwide data on the undergraduate student experience at UC. UCEP discussed some possible educational policy implications of the UCUES data, and recommended that each campus constitute a group of faculty to advise the project, coordinate reporting, and tailor survey questions for local relevance and impact. Incoming UCEP Chair Denise Segura will serve as liaison between UCEP and the UCUES project.

#### **Proposed Excess Units Fee Policy:**

UCEP reviewed a legislature-mandated proposal to charge higher fees for students who exceed 110% of the minimum number of credit units required for graduation. UCEP submitted comments recommending an implementation plan that would have the least harmful educational impacts on students, and that would exempt students enrolled in EAP and other off-campus academic programs.

#### **Restoration of the Student-Faculty Ratio:**

In February, UCEP sent a memo to Council in support of a proposed Regents budget line item designated for restoration of the student-faculty ratio. UCEP's memo asked Council to endorse the concept and communicate its support of the line item to UCOP.

#### **California Science and Math Initiative:**

In March, Executive Faculty Associate Lynda Goff joined UCEP to introduce the California Science and Math Initiative—"One Thousand Teachers, One Million Minds." Chair Kiskis also served as a Senate representative on the SMI Task Force. UCEP members brought a draft of the proposal to campuses for feedback about what the Senate role in the SMI should be and possible impediments to implementation. There was some concern that the proposed timeframe for the project was too ambitious to ensure a proper and full Academic Senate review, and that issues around credentialing would be difficult to resolve. UCEP noted these observations and concerns in a letter to the Academic Council Chair.

#### **International Baccalaureate Curriculum:**

Jeanne Hargrove, Student Academic Services Coordinator for High School Articulation and the Analytical Writing Placement Exam, asked UCEP members to review a set of International Baccalaureate Standard Level Curriculum guides to determine what, if any, university credit should be given for successful completion. Members agreed to review the curriculum and the exam and decide what number of university units students should be awarded depending on what test score. However by year end, members had not been able to complete the request, pending additional information about the correspondence between performance levels and exam scores.

#### **Proposed Systemwide Minor in Information Technology Fluency and Impact:**

In March, UCEP met by phone with members of the Information Technology and Telecommunications Policy Committee—Chair Alfonso Cardenas and David Messerschmitt—who were seeking UCEP's input into a developing proposal for a new Systemwide Minor in IT Fluency and Impact. UCEP sent a letter to Council endorsing the concept of the University minor and outlining a general plan for procedures governing curriculum coordination and management and senate review and approval at both the local and systemwide levels. Council endorsed UCEP's general outline. ITTP is working on a formal proposal.

#### **Pro-active Committee Projects:**

Early in the year, Chair Kiskis asked UCEP to consider additional topics or projects outside of those sent to the committee by Academic Council or the Administration.

#### Quantitative Reasoning Requirement

A joint UCEP/UCOPE subcommittee formed to discuss a proposal to institute a systemwide entry-level Quantitative Research Skills and Methods requirement, analogous to the Subject A writing requirement. The subcommittee solicited and reviewed viewpoints both in support of and against the proposal, and agreed to continue its deliberations over the summer and next year.

#### Academic Integrity

A UCEP subcommittee reviewed campus academic integrity policies and procedures. The subcommittee found a lot of variance across campuses and minimal systemwide policy guidance on issues such as punitive grades, faculty authority and responsibility for assigning punitive grades, and the use of anti-cheating software. Next year, UCEP continue to discuss the issue with

input from CEP committees – consolidate campus best practices, revisit standards and definitions, and consider whether it would be worthwhile to consider systemwide policies for any of the issues.

### Program Review

A third UCEP subcommittee formed to examine the role and value of program reviews. The subcommittee was gathering guidelines and best practices, seeking feedback from campuses where program reviews were thought to be problematic, and considering strategies to ensure the significance, efficiency, and effectiveness of the evaluation process.

### **Responses to Legislative Matters**

Chair Kiskis, with committee input, submitted comments to the Senate Legislative Analyst about several proposed bills with potential impacts for the University and educational policy. These included SB-5, which would have asked UC to develop a Student Bill of Rights; a proposal from the National Center for Education Statistics to expand efforts to collect information on students nationally; SB-337, related to Students Registered as Sex Offenders; SB-625 a proposal to establish education empowerment zones; and AB-445, which would have abolished CPEC. In addition, UCEP's Chair expressed his concern to Council about proposed legislation related to the power of campus police.

### **Other News and Business:**

The Academic Assembly passed an amendment to UCEP's charge, which now includes review and approval of universitywide domestic off-campus academic programs and courses, after the course has gone through the approval process at its home campus of record.

UCEP viewed its charge widely and regarded the majority of Senate issues to have at least some educational policy implications. UCEP also issued formal responses on the following:

- Comments to Council on Proposed Academic Personnel Policies Related to Work and Family—APM 760, 133-17, 210-1 and 220
- Comments on APM 710- Leaves of Absence/Sick Leave, APM 700- Leaves of Absence/General, Proposed New APM 080- Medical Separation.
- Comments on a Policy on University Management of Health, Safety, and the Environment, and Draft Guidelines for Implementation.
- Comments on "Systemwide Strategic Directions for Libraries and Scholarly Information at the University of California."
- Comments on Council's Proposed Amendment to Senate Bylaw 128
- Comments on UCAAD's Addendum to the Report of the Task Force on Graduate and Professional School Admissions
- Comments on UCAP's Proposed Modifications to APM 220-18 – UCEP asked UCAP to explain their reasoning for several of the proposed changes.
- Comments on the Technical Review of APM 190 Appendix F – Policy on the Use of Non-19900 Fund Sources to Support Ladder-Rank Faculty
- UCEP sent a memo to BOARS about a UCD professor's request to add Earth and Space Sciences as a fourth laboratory science course option in the Subject Requirement List in UC's "d" and "g" admissions requirements. UCEP considered it to have educational policy

implications, as there is a stake for all faculty in having students entering the University of California prepared to engage in the science curriculum.

UCEP also discussed issues related to 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 and Academic Assembly, Academic Planning Council, the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates, and the Science and Math Initiative Task Force.

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Respectfully submitted,

Joeseeph Kiskis (UCB), Chair  
Denise Segura (UCSB), Vice-Chair  
J. Keith Gilless (UCB)  
David Bunch (UCD)  
Robert Newcomb (UCI)  
Richard Weiss (UCLA)  
Harry Green (UCR, spring)  
Lynda Bell (UCR, fall)  
Charles Perrin (UCSD)

Henry Sanchez (UCSF)  
Randall Bergstrom (UCSB)  
Richard Hughey (UCSC)  
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