UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE
ON
EDUCATIONAL POLICY

2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:
The University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) met nine times in Academic Year 2009-2010 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.

Online Education
Throughout the year, UCEP discussed the Academic Planning, Programs and Coordination unit's online education initiative and pilot project. Aims of the pilot include learning whether there are opportunities that UC is not taking full advantage of and to determine if online instruction is an effective means to deliver courses across campuses. UCOP is proposing to raise dedicated funding that will be distributed as a result of a Request for Proposals (RFP) process to faculty who are interested in developing and delivering online courses. UCEP recommended that measurements should be made to determine if online courses are equally effective as a traditional course. UCEP also expressed concerns about students who need face to face interaction with faculty or who are not prepared for UC overall. A joint Administrative/Senate oversight body has been set up to advise Academic Planning, and there will be consultation with UCEP.

Course Approval
UCEP had a number of discussions about the process for approving courses for requirement credit when students take courses at locations other than their home department or campus, especially as this relates to the Education Abroad Program, the Language Consortium, UCDC and UC Sacramento. There are also issues related to registration. The committee considered if there is a way to streamline the process and decrease the burden on students. A system to track courses that have been approved to which faculty and students could refer may facilitate the approval process. In July, UCEP submitted a letter to the Chair of the Academic Council proposing a joint Senate-Administration Task Force on multicampus registration and the off-campus course approval process.

Education Abroad Program
UCEP discussed and commented on the Final Report of the 2008-09 Task Force on the Education Abroad Program. Two members of UCEP volunteered to serve on the EAP Governing Committee. The Governing Committee discussed decisions to closing several study centers and while it will not make decisions about the budget, it may be involved in determining how the cuts are distributed. One question that was not addressed by the Governing Committee is whether differential fees would be charged for some programs. A few programs are being considered for cuts, those where there are not enough students and those that are more expensive because of the nature of the program. An additional problem UCEP discussed was the process by which EAP-related credits can be approved to count toward a student's major. An administrative process to handle approving the course for credit towards a major exists but puts a substantial burden on the students and is administratively cumbersome.

Days of Instruction
The Academic Council Chair requested that UCEP discuss issues related to whether it is feasible and/or advisable to try to better define what is meant by the term "days of instruction." While the number of days of instruction has been set, an exact definition for what constitutes a "day of instruction" has been subject to different interpretations. Current UC policy has no definition of what constitutes an instructional day. UCEP discussed this issue at their December and February meetings this year and concluded that it is not necessary at this time to work toward a more specific definition of "days of instruction." The committee believed that a certain degree of ambiguity might be beneficial in dealing with situations that might occur in the future, and that attempting to define the term too specifically might impose restrictions that would be inappropriate or undesirable for some situations. UCEP recommended that it would be better to leave the interpretation to the appropriate administrative and Senate bodies when the occasion arises rather than to try to anticipate what might be appropriate with more specific and potentially restrictive guidelines.

Arabic Without Walls
Regulation 544 makes a course offered at one campus count minimally as elective units at other campuses and a course can be brought to UCEP for approval as a systemwide course. An approved course would then be listed in the systemwide courses catalog. UCEP has authority for final approval of systemwide courses. The UC Language Consortium requested that UCEP approve the Arabic Without Walls course from UC Irvine as a systemwide course. The committee identified a number of issues including how the course would be listed, how students would be directed to the catalog, whether fees would be shared by the campus offering the course and the student's campus, and whether the student will receive credit towards a major. UCEP members voted to approve Arabic Without Walls as a systemwide course, and requested a future report from the Language Consortium on the status of the course. UCEP's policy for approval and listing of systemwide courses is not an official UC policy but will be sent to anyone interested in creating a systemwide course.

Course Identification Number System Project
During its April meeting, UCEP received a presentation on the Course Identification Number System from Michelle Pilati, Faculty Coordinator of the C-ID project and Barbara Love, UC Santa Cruz Articulation Officer and member of the C-ID Advisory Committee. The importance of active faculty participation in the C-ID project was emphasized and UCEP discussed potential mechanisms for increasing faculty members' understanding of how they benefit from participating. Given current faculty workloads, the committee recommended that the course review should be as streamlined as possible. The committee recommended setting up the processes used by C-ID for course articulation to work in conjunction with the development of learning outcomes during the accreditation process. The committee also suggested establishing a mechanism for faculty to receive credit for service for participating in the C-ID project.

Affiliation with Student Affairs
In 2009 UCEP had proposed a revision to Senate Bylaw 170 that would have made issues of student welfare a more formal part of the committee's responsibilities. The proposal was rescinded while under systemwide review at UCEP's request when feedback pointed out an unintended consequence of the specific wording of the proposed change that would have decreased the scope of UCEP's oversight and limited it to undergraduate education. In subsequent discussions of the intent of the bylaw change, UCEP determined that it was already

the committee that important student welfare issues were typically brought to, and that a formal inclusion of that activity in the bylaws was unnecessary and could lead to UCEP spending more time on student-related issues than was necessary or appropriate.

University Student Aid Program
Most of the money in USAP is from the educational fees. UCEP discussed whether it would be appropriate to give campuses more flexibility for USAP so the educational fee dollars could be used for other purposes or priorities as long as other specifically raised external funds, such as gifts, replaced those dollars for USAP. Concerns included compromising UC's ability to communicate about the efforts to find resources for additional financial aid to mitigate the impact of the fee increases and ensuring transparency in campus fundraising. Donors have expectations about how the funding is used. The committee decided that any change to the policy sould not be pursued at this time.

Other Issues and Additional Business
In response to requests for formal comment from the Academic Council, UCEP also issued views on the following:
* Differential Fees
* Undergraduate Effectiveness Task Force
* Report of Senate Special Committee on Online and Remote Instruction and Residency
* Commission on the Future – detailed comments were made on the two sets of recommendations from the Commission on the Future work groups, as well as the recommendations from senior management and from the executive vice chancellors.
* Choices Report
* The Compendium: Universitywide Review Processes for Academic Programs, Academic Units, & Research Units
* Area "d" Admissions Requirements

UCEP 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 Keith Williams represented the committee at meetings of the Academic Council, and Academic Assembly, and regularly attended meetings of the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates. Chair Williams also co-chaired the Commission on the Future Education and Curriculum Work Group.

Committee Consultations and Acknowledgements
UCEP benefited from consultation and reports from Hilary Baxter Academic Planning Analyst, Academic Planning, Programs and Coordination. In addition, UCEP 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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