

**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON PREPARATORY EDUCATION (UCOPE)  
ANNUAL REPORT 2011-12**

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

The University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE) met twice and the UCOPE-EMS (English as a Second Language) Advisory Group met once during the 2011-12 academic year. Both groups considered matters in accordance with its duties as set forth in [Senate Bylaw 192](#), which state that UCOPE shall advise the President and appropriate agencies of the Academic Senate on the broader issues related to preparatory education, including the language needs of students from diverse linguistic backgrounds; monitor and conduct periodic reviews and evaluations of preparatory and remedial education; to supervise the *University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement* (UC-ELWR), and to establish Universitywide standards for the *University of California Analytical Writing Placement Examination* (UC-AWPE); monitor the implementation of [Senate Regulation 761](#) (Remedial Courses) on the campuses. A summary of the committee's activities and accomplishments follows below:

**UC Analytical Writing Placement Examination**

- **Administration and Budget.** UCOPE members reviewed the implementation of the UC-AWPE vis-à-vis reports from AWPE Analyst Julie Lind. The UC-AWPE has had a history of structural deficits, as the costs to administer, score and manage the program exceed the revenue generated by its current fee structure. UCOPE has continued to closely monitor this issue and to work to ensure that AWPE standards are not compromised by future cost-cutting measures and that the pedagogical and curricular consequences associated with on-line scoring are carefully considered.
- **Review and Selection of the 2012 Analytical Writing Placement Examination Essays.** In January, UCOPE members selected the essay to be used in the 2011 UC-AWPE administration, in accord with Senate Regulation 636B.1. The selection is an annual event led by UCOPE Consultant George Gadda (UCLA).
- **Norming of AWPE for 2011.** In April, UCOPE members reviewed sample essays to ensure that norming procedures used in evaluation of the 2011 AWPE exam would be consistent with SR 636A and SR 636B.1 This session is an annual event led by UCOPE Consultant George Gadda (UCLA).

**UCOPE English for Multilingual Students Advisory Group**

The UCOPE-EMS Advisory Group met once this year. Advisory Group Chair Robin Scarcella (UCI) reported that almost every member expressed deep concerns regarding how the UC budget situation is impacting ESL programs and services on the campuses. The Advisory's Group considered the new online scoring procedure of the AWPE and possible difficulties that might arise from its use. They also discussed plans to increase the enrollment of international students on several UC campuses. Members felt strongly that any that any proposed increase in the enrollment of international students include commensurate services with funding, in particular from the Size and Shape Working Group of the Commission on the Future.

### **UCSD Proposal for ELWR Exemption**

UCOPE discussed a UCSD proposal to exempt a fraction of its students from the Systemwide ELWR course requirement. After brief discussion, UCOPE voted unanimously to send a letter conveying its concerns with the two IRB-approved study proposals measuring the effect of basic writing courses on UCSD students and support of the request to exempt a fraction of UCSD students from the Systemwide ELWR course requirement.

### **UC Online Education: UCEP Response to the UCOE Proposal**

UCOPE discussed the UCEP Response to the UC Online Education Proposal. After brief discussion, UCOPE voted unanimously to send a letter that recommends that UCOE courses include a requirement that students have satisfied the ELWR in a manner comparable to the previous recommendation by BOARS.

### **Other Issues and Business**

In addition to official communications related to the aforementioned topics, UCOPE considered and in some cases submitted formal comments on the following policy issues under review:

- Impact of budget cuts on the future of preparatory education in the UC System; and
- Development of a written proposal and intellectual framework for adopting the concept of a Systemwide math diagnostic test.

UCOPE also devoted a portion of each meeting for reports and updates from its members about issues facing local divisions and committees. These discussions included reports by members on the impact of the budget situation on preparatory English and math programs on their respective campus, with attention given to any areas of concern for UCOPE or that might call for action by the committee in the future. Reports by the UCOPE Chair about Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senate (ICAS) meetings were also discussed.

### ***Acknowledgements***

UCOPE gratefully acknowledges the contributions of these UCOP and campus consultants over the past year: Julie Lind, AWPE Analyst; George Gadda, UCLA Writing Program Director and Chair of the Analytical Writing Placement Examination Committee; Robin Scarcella, Chair of the UCOPE-EMS Advisory Group; and all the members of the UCOPE-EMS Advisory Group. The committee also thanks the numerous faculty members who, as alternates, kindly represented their respective campuses at UCAAD meetings this year.

Respectfully submitted:

*Jonathan Alexander, Chair (UCI)*

*Steven Axelrod, Vice Chair (UCR)*

*Francesca Rothberg (UCB)*

*Cristiana Drake (UCD)*

*Min Zhou (UCLA)*

*Virginia Adan-Lifante (UCM)*

*Brice Erickson (UCSB)*

*Ross Frank (UCSD)*

*Leslie Zimmerman (UCSF)*

*David Smith (UCSC)*

*Jamie Holzer (UCSB student)*

*Robert Anderson (ex-officio member)*

*Robert Powell (ex-officio member)*

*Eric Zárate (Committee Analyst)*

*\*See Chair for UCI representative*

*\*See Vice Chair for UCR representative*