

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

During the 2015-16 Academic Year, the University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE) met twice and the UCOPE English for Multilingual Students Advisory Group met once. Both groups considered matters in accordance with their duties as set forth in Senate Bylaw 192, which states that UCOPE shall advise the President on matters relating to preparatory and remedial education (including the language needs of students from diverse linguistic backgrounds); monitor and conduct periodic reviews and evaluations of preparatory and remedial education; supervise the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement; monitor the development and use of placement examinations in mathematics; and work with the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools to communicate these standards to all high schools and colleges in California.

A summary of the committee's activities and accomplishments follows below:

Review and Selection of Analytical Writing Placement Exam (AWPE) Essay Prompts

Under the leadership of consultant George Gadda, UCOPE members approved selected writing prompts to be used in the 2016 UC-AWPE administration, in accord with Senate Regulation 636B.1. This annual event involved UCOPE members evaluating excerpts from a variety of publications for which the AWPE Committee has secured copyright permission. This process ensures that norming procedures used in evaluation of the exam would be consistent with SR 636A and SR 636B.1.

Julie Lind, AWPE Coordinator, Undergraduate Admissions, reported that the program continues to be financially stable. The exam revenue will continue to slowly drop as the number of test takers with fee waivers slowly rises. UC tested over 16k students at the May 14th administration. The number of students paying the full fee is 45.6%, 36% pay no fee, and 18% pay the reduced fee of \$20. This is the second year in a row where the number of students paying the full fee did not change. The five year contract with the vendor has been finalized for October 2016 to September 30, 2020. The program is trying to maintain a small financial cushion for expenses that are not anticipated.

At the April meeting, under the guidance of AWPE Committee Chair Gadda samples of student exams were read and calibrated in advance of the May administration. Committee members ranked student essays according to a scale established by the AWPE Committee. This process determines the threshold for a passing essay.

AWPE Committee Chair and Chief Reader

As described in the [2014-15 Annual Report](#), UCOPE was prepared to take the lead in the search for a new Chair of the AWPE Committee and Chief Reader and a transition plan was endorsed by the Academic Council on July 29, 2015. However, as a result of additional discussion at UCOPE's meetings this year, it became apparent that the committee did not possess the resources needed to carry out the search for a replacement. Subsequently, the Senate leadership consulted with the Administration in the spring and the decision was made for UCOP's Undergraduate Admissions unit to be responsible for hiring the new AWPE Committee Chair and Chief Reader. In the fall, Undergraduate Admissions will consult with UCOPE about the requirements of the position and the Chief Reader's role and responsibilities.

The Redesigned SAT Exam and the Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR)

The committee discussed the newly redesigned SAT Exam and how it will satisfy the ELWR. The first administration of the new exam was in May 2016 and it will be several years before there is data to help

UCOPE determine how to treat the exam. It is expected that UCOPE will make a final decision about the new SAT in January 2017.

EMS Advisory Group

The campuses continue to actively manage issues related to the increased enrollment of students who are multilingual including international students as well as native students whose primary language is not English. During its meeting this year, the EMS Advisory Group outlined a number of action items the members will work on in the future including activities focused upon professional development and specific services/supports for this particular student population.

UCOPE Representation

UCOPE Chair Caroline Streeter represented the committee at meetings of the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates.

Acknowledgements

UCOPE gratefully acknowledges the contributions of these UCOP and campus consultants over the past year: UCLA Writing Program Director and Chair of the Analytical Writing Placement Examination Committee George Gadda; EMS Advisory Group Chair Dana Ferris and all members of the EMS Advisory Group; Director of Undergraduate Admissions Michael Treviño; AWPE Coordinator Julie Lind; and, Associate Director, Undergraduate Admissions Han Mi Yoon-Wu. The committee also thanks the numerous faculty members who, as alternates, kindly represented their respective campuses at UCOPE meetings this year.

Respectfully submitted,

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