

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

During the 2020-2021 Academic Year, the University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE) held four videoconferences and UCOPE's English for Multilingual Students Advisory Group met once, also by videoconference. 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 (ELWR); 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:

RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the continuation of stay at home orders issued in March 2020 led UCOPE to recommend extending the temporary modification of the passing requirement for the Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) in Senate Regulation (SR) 636.C, first approved by Academic Council for Spring and Summer 2020 sessions, to Fall 2020 to Summer 2021 and for Fall 2021. Council approved these recommendations in [September 2020](#), [December 2020](#), and [July 2021](#) and this allowed the divisions the flexibility to determine if a grade of C- or above or a grade of Pass to satisfy the ELWR. UCOPE also requested that Council extend the June 2020 waiver of 636.C and add a new and retroactive waiver of 636.B to allow campuses to use alternative placement processes for new UC students enrolling in Fall 2021, Winter 2022 and Spring 2022 and this recommendation was approved by Council in [December 2020](#). As of July, UCD, UCI, UCSB and UCSC opted to not participate in the systemwide Analytical Writing Placement Exam (AWPE). As of July, UCD, UCI, UCSB and UCSC opted to not participate in the systemwide Analytical Writing Placement Exam (AWPE) and, along with UCSD, to use alternatives to the AWPE once students had enrolled at their campus. In May 2021, the systemwide AWPE was administered online for a second year and approximately 8400 domestic U.S. students took the Exam, which was not proctored.

THE ENTRY LEVEL WRITING REQUIREMENT TASK FORCE

As a result of several UCOPE discussions and consultation with campus Writing Program Administrators last year, UCOPE submitted a proposal to Council to establish a task force to examine the ELWR. Council endorsed the committee's proposal in [December 2020](#) and in February 2021 the ELWR Task Force was charged with developing recommendations for updating [Senate Regulation 636](#). The campus representatives for the Entry Level Writing Requirement Task Force (ELWRTF), which will report to Council, were appointed by the systemwide Committee on Committees and the ELWRTF began meeting in March 2021. The Task Force is expected to report to complete the first stage of its work and report to Council by the end of December, 2021. The second stage is expected by May 2022, and the Task Force co-chairs may provide informal updates to UCOPE over the course of the effort.

SYSTEMWIDE REPLACEMENT FOR THE ANALYTICAL WRITING PLACEMENT EXAM

In April, the committee began considering if a new process that meets the needs of the nine undergraduate campuses could replace the systemwide AWPE and during the June meeting, the committee began to focus upon the principles and values for placement shared across the campuses. The major themes that emerged from these initial discussions included the need for authentic placement that reflects the campus curriculum and is grounded in research, the importance of equity and student self-efficacy, and maintaining a role for systemwide oversight. The committee identified the need to change the narrative around the Entry Level Writing Requirement and to determine what UC faculty value about writing. UCOPE will continue to build on the principles and values document in 2021-2022.

EMS ADVISORY GROUP

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was the focus of the April meeting of the English for Multilingual Students Advisory Group. In addition to the standard reports about issues related to enrollment numbers, placement, instruction, and budget, the Advisory Group discussed how remote instruction has affected the work with international and multilingual students.

UCOPE REPRESENTATION

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

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