

**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON PREPARATORY EDUCATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2002-2003**

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

The University Committee on Preparatory Education held two meetings during Academic Year 2002-03 to conduct its business with respect to its duties outlined in Senate Bylaw 215. The Committee activities engaged in and issues that were considered by UCOPE this year are outlined briefly, as follows:

2002 Subject A Examination.

Pursuant to its charge of oversight of standards for administering the Subject A Examination, UCOPE reviewed and discussed data and information about its administration the previous spring that was presented by Director George Gadda, Subject A Committee Chair, and also Jeanne Hargrove, Subject A and High School Articulation Coordinator, Student Academic Services. This included test validity data, annual pass rate, information on the pool of examinees, and other related statistical data.

2003 Subject A Examination Essay/Prompt Selection.

UCOPE completed its annual selection of the essay/prompt to be administered in the Subject A examination in the spring of 2003 by accepting unanimously one passage from among a selection of passages presented by the Subject A Examination Chair and previously selected by the Subject A Examination Subcommittee.

2003 Subject A Examination Passing Standard/Norming the Subject A Examination.

UCOPE members discussed pretest essays provided by the Subject A Examination Committee Chair and agreed unanimously on scores for all pretest essays (these matched also the scores assigned by Subject A Subcommittee readers).

Review of Subject A Requirement and Subject A Examination.

UCOPE responded to questions raised in a letter from Senior Vice President and Provost C. Judson King regarding Subject A, that pertained to assessing the effectiveness of various ways students satisfy the Subject A requirement and whether the name and purpose of the Subject A examination and/or requirement should be restated. In a letter to the Academic Council on 25 February 2003 UCOPE stated its belief that a systemwide review of the various approaches students use to satisfy the Subject A requirement should be undertaken, and offered the expertise of the committee in setting up such a study. UCOPE offered to oversee the study and also be an active participant. A series of recommendations were made. In addition, UCOPE stated the importance and

usefulness of relating methods of satisfying the Subject A requirement to performance on the Subject A examination. UCOPE stated its belief that writing performance in subsequent courses, including required first-year writing courses, should be the primary criterion used to judge the writing ability of UC's students and the effectiveness of the various methods used to satisfy the Subject A requirement.

UCOPE Chair Potter met with University Committee on Educational Policy to discuss Subject A issues. Subsequent to that meeting, UCOPE and UCEP sent a joint letter to the Academic Council on 29 April 2003 in which proposed name changes for both the Subject A exam and the Subject A requirement were forwarded for Council and Assembly consideration. The joint Committee actions were reported thus:

- UCOPE and UCEP recommend and support changing the name of the Subject A examination to: University of California Analytical Writing Placement Exam;
- UCOPE and UCEP recommend and support changing the name of the Subject A requirement to: University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement

BOARS Report, Proposal for Use of Supplemental Subject Matter Tests in the UC Admissions Process. BOARS Chair Barbara Sawrey, an *ex officio* member of UCOPE, made a presentation on the Report and received feedback from UCOPE members for consideration by BOARS. UCOPE took no action on this.

Diagnostic Writing Service Update. The DWS website has not been funded for UC; thus, UCOPE's DWS Subcommittee is inactive. An update on funding was presented by Roman Stearns, Special Assistant to the Director of Admissions. CSU will continue with its model of DWS as a fee for service.

English as a Second Language (ESL) Subcommittee

Subcommittee Chair Jan Frodesen held one meeting. Individual campus reports on ESL issues, enrollment trends, program achievements and developments, and problems and concerns were provided. A report from that meeting was presented at UCOPE's last meeting of the year. The ESL Subcommittee discussed the following:

ESL transfer student data analysis, undergraduate issues related to ESL-designated students who do not pass Subject A, UC Write Program, ESL students who satisfied Subject A at a community college the summer before entering UC, and international graduate student issues, including oral proficiency testing across campuses and training for graduate teaching assistants who are international students and are from diverse linguistic backgrounds.

ESL Subcommittee would like to meet more than once a year, but recognizes, as does UCOPE, the current budgetary constraints that have led to reduction in numbers of Senate committee meetings. ESL Subcommittee would also like to have its Chair sit on UCOPE as a member.

Proposed Amendments to Senate Bylaws.

Overall, UCOPE approved the standardized set of revisions to the Senate Bylaws. After considerable discussion of its own proposed Bylaw 192, UCOPE acted on two issues at its April 29, 2003 meeting and on that date forwarded a letter to Council reporting its actions:

- 1) With respect to section A. Membership, UCOPE members voted to include two UCOPE Subcommittee Chairs—the Chair of the ESL Subcommittee and the Chair of the Subject A Examination Subcommittee—as members of the Committee, as did a previous UCOPE membership.
- 2) With respect to section B. Duties, UCOPE members proposed and voted in favor of adding language that addresses the purview of both UCOPE and the UCOPE ESL Subcommittee in monitoring the language needs of students from diverse linguistic backgrounds. UCOPE takes a broader view of second language reading and writing issues that are not otherwise addressed within the Senate Committee structure and, more specifically, its ESL Subcommittee addresses the academic performance of those students who do not pass the Subject A examination and are designated as ESL students.

Additional business:

The following reports, items, and/or issues that are outside UCOPE's specific charge and duties were also received and discussed:

- **Draft Proposal to Streamline the Course Major Articulation Process between UC Campuses and California Community Colleges.** UCOPE's 14 May 2003 letter to the Academic Council reported that transfer and articulation process is specific to major preparation and is thus outside the specific Committee charge and purview; therefore, UCOPE did not have a specific response to the Draft Proposal.
- **California Master Plan for Education. No official Committee response was sent.** Chair Potter reported on the potential impact of legislative bills that might arise from the Master Plan.
- **Student Writing Beyond the First Year at UC.** UCOPE addressed the issue of writing achievement of undergraduates, more broadly considered. Although UCOPE does not consider writing beyond the first year, and beyond satisfying the Subject A requirement, the Committee believes it can provide guidance to the Academic Council in pursuing an inquiry into student writing in general.

UCOPE Representation:

UCOPE was represented on additional Committees, Task Forces and Work Groups this year, including ICAS, and ICAS ESL Subcommittee. UCOPE Chair Wendell Potter attended a meeting of the University Committee on Educational Policy to consult with its members on Subject A issues.

Committee Consultations and Acknowledgements:

UCOPE benefited from regular consultation and reports from the following consultants: George Gadda, UCLA Writing Director and Chair of the Subject A Examination Committee, Susan Wilbur, Director of Undergraduate Admissions, Jeanne Hargrove, Subject A and High School Articulation Coordinator, Student Academic Services. The Committee also received a report from Roman Stearns, Project Coordinator, Admissions and Outreach. Chair Potter maintained a consultative liaison with Jan Frodesen, Chair of UCOPE's ESL Subcommittee.

UCOPE also consulted with Academic Council Chair Gayle Binion on Academic Council business, and Academic Council Executive Director María Bertero-Barceló on Committee and Senate office matters. UCOPE thanks Professor M. Cecilia Freeman (UCSC) who served as an alternate for the Divisional representative at one meeting, and represented the ESL Subcommittee in submitting the ESL Subcommittee Report at another meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendell Potter (D), Chair

David Stern (B)

No Representative (D)

Susan Carole Jarratt (I)

Arvan L. Fluharty (LA)

Shaun Bowler (R)

John Moore (SD)

Henry Sanchez (SF)

Susan McLeod (SB)

Roz Spafford (SC)

Barbara Sawrey (Member *ex officio*, as Chair of BOARS)

Anshuman Singh (Graduate student representative)

Louisa Tapley-Van Pelt, Committee Analyst

Jan Frodesen, Chair, ESL Subcommittee