

**Attending:** Caroline Streeter, Chair (UCLA), Bradley Queen, Vice Chair (UCI), Carrie Wastal (UCSD), Carol Miller (UCSF), Darlene Francis (UCB), Bill Gary (UCR), George Gadda (Assistant Director, UCLA Writing Programs and AWPE Committee Chair/Chief Reader), Sholeh Quinn (UCM), Benjamin Brecher (UCSB) (telephone), Robert Newcomb (UCD), Gabriel Elkaim (UCSC) (telephone), Julie Lind (AWPE Coordinator, Undergraduate Admissions, UCOP), Dan Hare (Chair, Academic Senate), Jim Chalfant (Vice Chair, Academic Senate), Brenda Abrams (Principal Analyst)

## I. Announcements

Chair Streeter welcomed the members and the charge of the committee was reviewed.

## II. Consultation with the Office of the President

- *Julie Lind, AWPE Coordinator, Undergraduate Admissions*

Last year in May, there was a drop in the testing volume by about 1500 test-takers from the year before. Campuses were conservative with their initial admissions and making more use of wait lists in order to manage the enrollment yield. This makes it difficult for the exam, which is administered the second week of May, because some students may not be admitted to any UC campus until after May 1<sup>st</sup>. Application growth continues to grow so admissions will become more selective. More students are also satisfying the ELWR by other means. There are many factors that dictate who will show up for the test. The exam volume is expected to increase some this year, and campuses may be more generous and admit more students. Testing volume and the pass rate both fluctuate from year to year. The pass rate in 2015 was 45.9%, down from 49.3% in 2014. In terms of the number of students that did not pass because the exam volume varied, in 2015 about 7500 test-takers did not pass and in 2014 test takers 7800 did not pass.

The next exam is May 14<sup>th</sup>. Program finances are in good shape. Last year was the first time that there was not a drop in the percent of students paying the full fee. This is after years of the full fee paying test taking population dropping. The admission application may have made it easier for students to request fee waivers. The new operations vendor contract is finalized with the incumbent vendor, GDIT. GDIT built the online scoring system for UC and it will be good to continue working with this vendor. The Coordinator gave a brief overview of the exam administration process, which includes issues related to copyrights. In the past, people were utilizing the exams in different ways following the May administration, so UCOP is asking for extended permissions for the copyright and making sure that campuses understand the permissions and fair use.

**Discussion:** Members discussed the enrollment targets for their campuses, but it is not clear how many students will take the AWPE. After the May exam, campuses do administer the exam locally for California students who missed the May administration as well as for out of state students. A member asked about how the entry level writing requirement is met by international students admitted to UC. The score of 680 on the SAT is not a good gauge for international students. Students from China may have taken many AP courses but not in English. About four thousand students take the AWPE after May to fulfill the ELWR. The campuses decide if the AWPE exam used in May is the one administered later. There is now a set of eight AWPE exams that are available for testing locally.

### **III. Analytical Writing Placements Exam review and Selection of Essay Prompts**

- *George Gadda, AWPE Committee Chair/Chief Reader, UCLA Writing Program*

AWPE Committee Chair Gadda, reviewed the process for selecting the AWSE essay prompts, including related elements such as testing and pre-testing and administration.

**Note:** Meeting notes were not recorded for the UCOPE discussion in keeping with past practices specific to the committee's deliberation on this specific topic.

### **IV. Senate Travel Procedure**

- *Deborah Neal, Interim Office Manager, Academic Senate*

Interim Office Manager Neal explained the current Senate travel procedures.

### **V. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership**

- *Dan Hare, Chair, Academic Senate*
- *Jim Chalfant, Vice Chair, Academic Senate*

Chair Hare reported on the most recent Regents meeting. Chair Hare is on a working group that developed a Statement on Intolerance which will be on the Regents' March agenda. Public comments focused on the Regents Statement on Intolerance, with some individuals advocating the adoption of the State Department's definition of anti-Semitism. A question about self-supporting professional degrees covering their costs is being discussed. The actual cost of these programs needs to be calculated and the party responsible for covering the costs has to be determined. There are two vacancies on the Board of Regents.

Chair Hare is on a joint committee examining faculty discipline. This is related to the policy on sexual violence and sexual harassment as well as a recent incident at UCB. The UCB Chancellor made a statement describing the faculty discipline process as arduous and indicated that there is a statute of limitations. There is a three year rule that gives administrators three years to file charges after learning about an allegation, which is not the same as a statute of limitations. The committee has found that when the policies are used, they work well. There will be recommendations related to providing education about the policies. Younger faculty should be more aware of the retirement options that are being considered.

Chair Hare described the programmatic initiatives that resulted from the May budget revise. Of relevance to UCOPE is that UC has been asked by the state to look at the variation of awarding of AP credit across the campuses. There is no immediate work for UCOPE to do on this at present as BOARS and UCEP look at issues like the College Level Examination Program. The request from the state is to look more broadly at AP credit. In 2014 UCOPE studied campus practices related to the awarding of AP credit for writing courses.

### **VI. The Redesigned SAT Exam and the Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR)**

The new SAT exam comes out in March and the scores will be reported in May. UCOPE has to determine how the new SAT satisfies the ELWR. BOARS will be reviewing data in February and making a report in March. It will be the new essay that UC looks at for satisfaction of the ELWR. For the next exam administration in May 2016, how the scores will be used has to be determined. It will be

several years before there is data and it may take several years before UCOPE figures out how to treat the exam.

**Discussion:** The vice chair recommended reviewing any empirical information currently available on the College Board website. Eventually, UCOPE will need to make a statement about the treatment of the SAT. Chair Gadda provided an overview of the history of changes to the SAT. The reading and writing sections have been collapsed into one section. In the past, there had always been an earlier form of the test that UCOPE could review along with the accordance table, however this new test will not have this history.

## **VII. AWPE Committee Chair/Chief Reader Search**

Vice Chair Chalfant and the Senate's Committee on Committee's analyst joined UCOPE to discuss how to proceed with identifying a replacement for Chair Gadda. It is not clear if the Committee on Committees (UCOC) needs to be involved with this effort. Vice Chair Chalfant recommended that Chair Streeter should discuss this matter with the leadership of UCOC.

**Discussion:** UCOP utilizes fees from the AWPE program to provide course relief to the current Chair/Chief Reader. Based on UCOPE's letter to Council, UCOPE should request nominees from the Council of Writing Programs. The UC Council of Writing Programs meets on April 28<sup>th</sup> which is the day before UCOPE's next meeting. Once a candidate is identified, time will be needed to negotiate the terms of this appointment. Chair Streeter will contact members of the UC Council of Writing Programs with a request for nominations.

## **VIII. Executive Session**

There was no Executive Session.

## **IX. Campus Reports/Member Items**

There were no Campus Reports.

## **X. New Business**

There was no New Business.

Meeting adjourned at: 3 p.m.  
Minutes prepared by: Brenda Abrams  
Attest: Caroline Streeter