

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON PREPARATORY EDUCATION

MEETING MINUTES

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2015

Attending: Bruce Cooperstein, Chair (UCSC), Caroline Streeter, Vice Chair (UCLA), Bradley Queen (UCI), Carrie Wastal (UCSD), Carol Miller (UCSF), Bill Gary (UCR), Michelle Fregoso (Undergraduate Student Representative), George Gadda (Assistant Director, UCLA Writing Programs and AWPE Committee Chair), Sholeh Quinn (UCM), Benjamin Brecher (UCSB), Han Mi Yoon-Wu (Associate Director, Undergraduate Admissions, UCOP), Julie Lind (AWPE Coordinator, Undergraduate Admissions, UCOP), Robin Scarcella (Chair, UCOPE English for Multi-Lingual Students Advisory Group) (telephone), Monica Lin (Associate Director, Undergraduate Admissions, UCOP), Nina Moore (Executive Director of P-20, Teaching and Leadership, Department of Diversity and Engagement, UCOP), Brenda Abrams (Principal Analyst)

I. Announcements

Chair Cooperstein described the purpose and composition of the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates. One of the recent ICAS meetings was Lobby Day. The community colleges have been authorized to offer a small number of bachelor's degrees in areas that do not conflict with UC and the CSUs. The oversight of the California Open Resource Council has been a focus of ICAS' discussions. The goal of this project is to offer lower cost text books as a way of decreasing the costs of higher education. Resources are currently under review but the bigger challenge will be getting faculty to utilize these new materials. The committee of two, which consists of UC's President and Governor Brown, is having discussions about UC's budget and how to avoid tuition increases.

II. Consent Calendar

Action: The minutes were approved.

III. Consultation with the Office of the President

- *Julie Lind, AWPE Coordinator, Undergraduate Admissions*
- *Han Mi Yoon-Wu, Associate Director, Undergraduate Admissions*
- *Monica Lin, Associate Director, Undergraduate Admissions*
- *Nina Moore, Executive Director of P-20, Teaching and Leadership, Department of Diversity and Engagement*

Coordinator Lind reported on the May 9th AWPE exam. UC expects to test about 15,000 students at the May 9th administration. It is not clear if more California students will be released off the admissions waitlist, which will increase the numbers some. Last year the pass rate was 49%, up from the previous year's 40.7%. The number of students paying the full fee without a waiver or reduction continues to drop slightly, down from 48% in 2013 to 45.4% last year. The decrease in those students paying the full fee is slowly having an impact on the resources for the program. The program is still in good shape and the increase in fee waivers and available revenue are carefully monitored. Following a long RFP process, a new operations contract will be finalized with a new vendor. The top fee for the AWPE exam is \$110 and Coordinator Lind hopes this fee can be lowered eventually following an examination of the program's fee structure. Coordinator Lind shared hardcopies of a recent UC legislative report with the committee.

AD Yoon-Wu provided the committee with copies of a draft implementation plan related to the new ACT enhanced exam to be utilized starting this September. The change is primarily to the writing component, which is called the "enhanced writing exam." In the past, UC has used the combined English writing

score as a criterion to pass out of the ELWR, but the new ACT will have a different score, called the English Writing Arts. The new score will combine the English, reading and writing and writing will now be on the one through thirty-six scale. A redesigned SAT will be introduced. It will go back to the 1600 scale which is just reading and math and the essay is optional. However, BOARS has already stated that for UC the essay is required. Three separate scores are to be provided on a scale of two to eight but it is not clear to UC what will be done with this in terms of admissions policy.

AD Yoon-Wu explained the recommendations from BOARS. Data from the new SAT will not be available right away and BOARS has said this will only be used to fill the test requirement but no scores on the redesigned SAT will be used for clearing the English subject area or to calculate the statewide index eligibility. Admissions hopes that UCOPE will make a similar public statement regarding the ACT that the current combined English writing and the new English language arts score would substitute for each other in the current cut off for the ELWR requirement and that for any student for fall 2016 taking the new SAT presenting these new essay scores, that these cannot be used for ELWR. There is no data on how students will perform on these tests but next year, UCOPE would have to review the data from the exam. More information, including some data, will be available in May. Chair Cooperstein recommends that UCOPE adopt a position consistent with BOARS' position and the committee members agreed.

Associate Director Lin and Executive Director Moore are collaborating on the development of a plan for faculty decision making on how UC will treat student scores on the Smarter Balanced Assessment. This assessment is currently being administered in California. UCOPE will eventually be asked to provide recommendations but no decisions have to be made at this time. The Office of the President has made efforts to support the transition to new assessments. AD Lin oversees a-g subject requirements. The goal is to raise the level of standards and learning to ensure that there are not students without access to a-g courses. In a way, what is being said is that these K-12 standards are aligned with UC faculty's a-g course criteria.

BOARS has been engaged in discussions about intersegmental decisions and statewide planning efforts to ensure that UC has a voice in this matter. UC has made public statements in support of the Common Core and this has opened a new perspective about increased opportunities for faculty in K-12 and higher education to collaborate. Officially, UC does not provide remedial education therefore there is some question about how the University will treat the scores on the Smarter Balanced Assessment. Smarter Balanced Assessment was initiated under the Department of Education but needed to find a new home so the program is now an affiliate of the UCLA Graduate School for Education and Information Studies. This should be capitalized upon and UCOPE can contribute to what the research agenda looks like.

A national research agenda is being developed for how Smarter Balanced scores align with long standing SAT, ACT and other exams. A UC specific study might be possible. Smarter Balanced is being used by the community colleges as a replacement for their entry level math exam. Executive Director Moore indicated that this is an opportunity for UC to take the lead on the discussion about what it means to be college ready and career ready. There is an interest in figuring out how to encourage students who have met the a-g requirements but receive a score of four on the Smarter Balanced Assessment. BOARS is reportedly very interested in aligning a-g and Common Core.

Discussion: The pass rate for AWPE varies a bit every year but tends to be around 50% and the pass rates vary by campus. The pass rate is impacted by factors such as who shows up for the exam. Consultant Gadda indicated that the current 30 (out of a score of 36) is a useful criterion given the constellation of scores students have. The IB exam would be taken in their senior year, so UC would not see this score. Members agreed with the positions taken by BOARS. The score of 30 on the ACT English Language Arts will satisfy the ELWR. Members agree that this would be accepted for the fall 2016.

Reportedly, some UC faculty have expressed support for the Common Core but the implementation by the vendors has been problematic. The vendors responded to conditions that the Smarter Balanced Consortium established and AD Lin will get additional information for UCOPE about the assessment development and implementation. A question is what accountability in California will look like given the numerous assessments. More information is needed about what campuses already do in terms of math assessments. If UC concludes that a score of four does not mean college readiness, UC would no longer be involved in the Smarter Balanced Assessment policy discussion, which would at the very least be awkward since UCLA is the home of this particular assessment. UC has can potentially move the Smarter Balanced Assessment in the preferred direction.

IV. AWPE Scoring/Norming

- *George Gadda, Assistant Director, UCLA Writing Programs, AWPE Committee Chair/Chief Reader*

Discussion: AWPE Committee Chair Gadda led a discussion on passing the AWPE requirement. Notes were not recorded for this portion of the discussion due to its confidential subject matter. Committee Chair Gadda invited members to provide an alternate address where the packets can be mailed and members should be notified when the packets are mailed.

V. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership

Senate Leadership were unavailable to attend the UCOPE meeting.

VI. Standardization of the Awarding of Advanced Placement (AP) Credit Across the UC System

Chair Cooperstein reviewed how the committee's past discussions about the issue of how AP credit is utilized at the UC campuses for writing. A UCOPE survey found that the practices vary. Some previous members may have been concerned about the use of AP credit for upper division courses. Both UCEP and BOARS have been consulted but no further steps have resulted from the draft memos from the past chairs of UCOPE and UCEP which are in the agenda packet.

Discussion: The AP program has been in the process of reconsidering both the courses and the exams. A member commented that there is no evidence that students who have been allowed to place out of lower division courses have done less well later. This inquiry may help prompt campuses to investigate what their policies are and to justify them. Since some of these policies have not been examined in years, it may be worthwhile to review them now. Importantly, members also agreed that there seems to have been some confusion about the interpretation of Senate Regulation 636. The members agreed that UCOPE will not pursue this matter and that this is a local decision which should be monitored locally.

VII. AWPE Committee Chair/Chief Reader Position

Chair Cooperstein explained that UCOPE's consultant, George Gadda, will be retiring from UCLA. He has agreed to continue to serve in this position for a number of years while a new chair/chief reader is brought on board. Consultant Gadda reported that he is willing to serve for a number of years (three or more) during this transition to a new chair/chief reader. UCOP has provided Consultant Gadda with course relief. The UC Council of Writing Programs was involved with recommending Consultant Gadda's original appointment. One potential candidate is leaving UC and another will be retiring, and it is essential that the new chair have some history with the AWPE.

Discussion: UCOPE members agreed with the plan for Consultant Gadda to serve for a term of three

years with a possibility for an extension. The clock for planning will start ticking when Consultant Gadda officially announces his retirement. The campus committee's should be developing leadership at the local level. In general it is only one person at each campus that has experience with directing or coordinating entry level writing programs or organizing readings, and some of these people are also approaching retirement. Chair Cooperstein recommends that a plan for expanding this pool of individuals should be created.

Consultant Gadda described the test development process and noted that he has been solely responsible for some components of this work. The individual will need several years to develop the level of expertise required, so the appointment will need to be long term. In the past, the people involved with English as a Second Language have not been Senate members but primarily Unit 18 lecturers. The UCLA program only has people who are Unit 18 and members discussed their campus hiring practices. The analyst will review the historical records to ensure that the current process is in keeping with any established procedures, and a memo delineating the plan will be submitted to Council for the record.

VIII. Natural Sciences Competency Statement

Chair Cooperstein invited UCOPE members to comment on the ICAS Natural Sciences Competency Statement. This document is to be adopted by the community colleges, the CSUs and UC.

Discussion: The committee discussed issues with the tone of the statement including that it is at times political in nature. The document highlights the role of evidence which is something to which students should be exposed. Resources would need to be equitably distributed throughout the state in order to provide the type of science education described in the ICAS document and so that every child has the opportunity to realize the goals outlined. Chair Cooperstein described how poor communities can use the court system to advocate for access to the necessary resources. The members agreed to not opine on this matter.

IX. Divisional Reports/Member Items

Irvine: The writing course caps were lowered from 23 to 19 which was a budgetary decision. A year was spent studying class sizes and performance, and the course evaluation data shows that performance did not vary. The evaluations of smaller classes were high.

San Francisco: The campus is completely revamping its curriculum so it is aligned with systems based practice. This includes beginning to think about foundational skills students need entering medical school. All competency statements have been revised. Working on interdisciplinary skills with students which is a skill set not emphasized to date. UCSF is one of eleven universities around the country to develop a new curriculum that would emphasize and address these practices. This effort involves the Carnegie Foundation. This is grant funded. The thinking about this began ten years ago.

Santa Barbara: The biggest issue is growth, student numbers and what growth will mean to the infrastructure resources. The campus has grown by six thousand students in recent years. There are problems with sections and overcrowding. A wait list policy is being considered but there are loopholes that students use. Rebenching resulted in an influx of funds to UCSB that has been used for new buildings.

EMS Advisory Group: Chair Scarcella joined UCOPE by phone to report on this group's recent meeting. Influxes of international students at some campuses have been leveling off. The Group's activities include drafting a paper on the support services for international students. Many members are retiring and Chair Scarcella announced that Dana Ferris from UCD will be taking over as chair of the

EMS Advisory Group. Consultant Gadda began attending the Advisory Group meetings approximately five years ago when campuses began attending and this has been valuable.

X. New Business

There was no New Business.

XI. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

Meeting adjourned at: 2:40 P.M.

Minutes prepared by: Brenda Abrams

Attest: Bruce Cooperstein