

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON PREPARATORY EDUCATION

VIDEOCONFERENCE MINUTES

MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2019

Attending: Darlene Francis, Chair (UCB), Debra Lewis, Vice Chair (UCSC), Deborah Willis (UCR), Jeffrey Gagnon (UCSD), Eric Prieto (UCSB), Madeleine Sorapure (UCSB BOARS representative), Matthew Stratton (UCD), Han Mi Yoon-Wu (Director, Undergraduate Admissions), Jon Lang (AWPE Committee Chair), Julie Lind (AWPE Coordinator, Undergraduate Admissions), Laura Hardy (Associate Director, Undergraduate Admissions), Brenda Abrams (Principal Policy Analyst)

I. Consent Calendar

Action: The April minutes were approved.

II. Updates

Chair Francis recommended that Executive Session will follow the updates and the concerns about the AWPE will be discussed after that. The chair has been reappointed to chair UCOPE next year and the UCSD representative has been appointed to the vice chair position. The Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates received presentations on the Smarter Balanced Assessment, the SAT, and on the validity of standardized assessments. The Standardized Testing Task Force (STTF) has discussed norm-referenced versus criterion-referenced instruments which have different outcomes. The STTF will have discussions about what happens should UC decides to make standardized tests optional. The campus admissions directors will meet with the Task Force. One idea that has come up is for UC would develop a tool that would not exacerbate inequities based on socioeconomic status. The Task Force will now consider what to do with the information it has received.

Discussion: The UCD and UCSC representatives will return to UCOPE next year while the UCSB and Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) representatives will not. A member shared a colleague's concern that the STTF lacked faculty input, but Chair Francis indicated that the Task Force includes the chairs of the Committee on Educational Policy and the BOARS. The BOARS representative to UCOPE reported that BOARS has received regular, detailed updates on the STTF's work.

III. Executive Session

Minutes were not taken during Executive Session.

IV. Concerns about the Analytical Writing Placement Exam (AWPE) and Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR)

The committee will continue April's discussion regarding concerns about the AWPE and ELWR and decide how to respond to an April memo from some of the Vice Provosts and Deans for Undergraduate Education (VPDUE). In May, UCOPE received a memo from several Writing Program Administrators that attempts to address inaccurate information in the VPDUE correspondence.

Discussion: Members agreed with the suggestion that the commonalities in the VPDUE and the Writing Program Administrators memos should be identified. It was noted that the VPDUEs' concerns about equity and the AWPE are long-standing and the committee should acknowledge this and other criticisms. UCOPE's response to the VPDUEs should clarify and reiterate that the campuses have significant autonomy over how the AWPE results are used to inform student placement and that the results can be

used in tandem with other information. For example, campuses could ensure that ELWR satisfying courses offer credit towards graduation. Greater attention should be given to differing campus practices and policies.

It is important that UCOPE acknowledge the stakes related to and the different perspectives about the AWPE and the ELWR. For example, UCSD is interested in understanding if the Exam and Requirement are burdensome to students and if the campus processes help them find the right class or resources when needed so they can succeed. UCSD strives to give students from under resourced schools the resources they need to thrive. The campus is also considering the correct data to collect and how to assess it and will also create a tool this summer to survey students before, during and after placement.

Chair Francis commented that it should be made clear that faculty remain committed to writing and has requested that the STTF assess the validity and usefulness of the AWPE. UCOPE should devote efforts to framing/directing the scope of the STTF discussion. Discussions related to the AWPE and ELWR should be clear and not conflated (as they often appear to be). For the next academic year, it might be beneficial for the UCOPE committee to hear about the history of the AWPE and its current use (from existing members of the AWPE Sub Committee). Understanding the impact of writing placement on underrepresented minority and first generation students is important. The committee may also wish to discuss alternative writing placement options.

VPDUEs could be encouraged by UCOPE to increase the resources available to writing programs. The WPAs would also be reassured to have the value of writing reaffirmed and it may be helpful for UCOPE to meet with them as well as with the AWPE Subcommittee. AWPE Chair Lang is concerned that eliminating the systemwide Exam would create a logistical nightmare as campuses would have to come up with funding for a new placement mechanism. Chair Francis reiterated the need for UCOPE members to engage with campus administrators and to challenge the deans and vice provosts to demonstrate their commitment to writing.

V. Satisfaction of the ELWR at the Campuses

This topic was not discussed. Darlene: additional data points related to this are needed

Videoconference adjourned at: 4 PM
Minutes prepared by: Brenda Abrams
Attest: Darlene Francis