

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON PREPARATORY EDUCATION

Minutes of Meeting**October 19, 2023****I. Welcome and Introductions***Amanda Solomon, UCOPE Chair*

After members introduced themselves, Chair Solomon pointed the committee to the UCOPE by-law. Because the Analytical Writing Placement Examination (AWPE) has been discontinued, the by-law will need to be amended. Members should think of other aspects of the by-law that may need to be changed. See also Item IV below.

UCOPE will also need to charge the Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) Coordinating Committee (see also Item VI below).

II. Math Placement*Kimberly Samaniego, Director, CSU/UC Mathematics Diagnostic Testing Project and Director, UC San Diego Math Testing and Placement*

Director Samaniego provided an overview of how math placement at UCSD is handled, where there is a diagnostic test followed by a placement test. In addition to local efforts (which can be shared and adapted), a statewide math diagnostic testing placement program also exists. Overall, student self-reporting has been accurate, and because the unproctored exam is framed as being low-stakes, confidence is high in the outcomes. More follow-up would be ideal, especially as trends suggest an increasing number of students in need of support, but resource limitations exist in this area, too. Data is available in aggregate only, for now, but future efforts will focus on time-to-degree impacts and the preparatory track followed.

III. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership*James Steintrager, Academic Council Chair**Steven W. Cheung, Academic Council Vice Chair*

- Recent events have highlighted the need to update Senate guidelines regarding California Public Records Act and Freedom of Information Act requests.
- The Senate continues to consider how anticipated fully online undergraduate degrees can fulfill the residency requirement outlined in Senate Regulations. In addition to accreditation

questions, quality concerns, and instructor workload issues, the Senate also has concerns about student “FTE” impacts. Other stakeholders, however, view fully online undergraduate degrees as inevitable and/or as a cure-all for access issues. Finding an evidence-based approach is necessary, but unlikely to placate those demanding quick action.

- The ease of transfer into the University continues to be under scrutiny, from both internal and external stakeholders. The Senate, however, remains focused on transfer student success, and therefore, academic preparation. Recent state legislation requires a pilot program at UCLA, forcing that campus to accept the California Community Colleges’ (CCC) Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) as proof of academic preparation and therefore to offer a guaranty of admission in certain majors, particularly from certain CCCs. The ADTs were created in response to previous state legislation. UC notes, however, that not all California State Universities accept all ADTs, and that some ADTs will not prepare students for UC work which has a different academic and research focus.

IV. UCOPE By-Law 192

Members were reminded that discontinuation of the AWPE requires conforming amendments to the UCOPE By-Law. Other changes should be considered, as well. Members noted concerns about certain terms, such as “remedial” and the inherent limit of UCOPE to impact preparation undertaken prior to arrival on campus.

Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

V. English Placement

1. Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) Usage

Irvine Representative Queen shared placement outcomes at that campus which were based on SBAC’s English Language Arts scores to fulfill ELWR. The predictive validity will be assessed during the next phase of the test. Concerns include that SBAC was not intended as an assessment of a student, but of the school, but since this is placement, not admission, it is hoped that usage, if supported by evidence, could remain low-profile and thus the test low-stakes.

2. Digital SAT Usage

Members are asked whether the digital SAT can be used to satisfy ELWR. Office of the President consultants noted that this year would be the first administration of the digital SAT, and that while scores may be submitted voluntarily, they will not be considered for this purpose unless updated guidance is issued. The digital SAT differs from the analog test insofar as it is “adaptive” and shorter.

Members suggested that the ELWR Coordinating Committee could be charged to assess data as it becomes available. Others noted the persistent concerns surrounding online test security/academic integrity, as well as the inconsistency of using the SAT (in any form) for certain purposes but not for others. Test fatigue was also noted.

VI. Charging the ELWR Coordinating Committee

Members were reminded of a draft charge to the ELWR CC developed by the previous UCOPE. The need for experts remains paramount, as well as transparent communications with the UCOPE. The charge should not specify which data sources to be used, but what UCOPE hopes to learn from any collected data. Governance, membership, and term limits will need to be specified as well. Members should consult with their campus committees prior to the next meeting.

VII. Further Discussion and New Business

None.

Adjournment 1:35 pm

Minutes prepared by Kenneth Feer, Principal Analyst

Attest: Amanda Solomon, UCOPE Chair

Attendance:

Amanda Solomon, Chair

Po-Ning Chen, Vice Chair

Steven Lee, UCB

Susan Keen, UCD

Brad Queen, UCI

Steve Margulis, UCLA

Heather Bortfeld, UCM

Jianzhong Wu, UCR

Guershon Harel, UCSD

Jason Duque, UCSB

John Tamkun, UCSC