

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON PREPARATORY EDUCATION

Minutes of Meeting
Friday, January 22, 2010
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
UCOP, 1111 Franklin Street, Oakland – Room 5320
Telephone: 510-987-9466
<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/>

I. Chair's Report/Announcements – Chair Jonathan Alexander

- Welcome and Introductions: Chair Jonathan Alexander invited self-introductions from members and provided an overview of the committee's charge. George Gadda described two UCOPE advisory groups: the AWPE and ESL Advisory Groups.
- Rescheduling of April 16 UCOPE meeting due to UCOP closure

II. Consent Calendar

- Approval of the Agenda

ACTION: The agenda was approved as noticed.

III. Analytical Writing Placement Exam Review and Selection of Essay Prompts – George Gadda, UCLA Writing Program

ISSUE: AWPE Committee Chair George Gadda will lead a discussion on selection of AWSE essay prompts.

DISCUSSION: Due to the confidential nature of this discussion, no notes were taken.

ACTION: Prompts for the administration of this spring's Analytical Writing Placement Exam were selected.

IV. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership –

- *Harry Powell, Academic Council Chair*
- *Martha Winnacker, Executive Director*

Chair Harry Powell provided an overview of current issues of concern for the UC system and 2009-10 Academic Senate priorities. He noted there is some talk about incentivizing early retirement and provided some background on the restart of employee contributions to UCRP that will commence April 2010. He discussed various changes to the pension plan and retiree benefits that are being explored. He updated members on the Gould Commission on the Future and its five Working Groups. He described the Commission's charge, membership, framework, and timeframe for developing recommendations. Chair Powell also reported on the recent meeting of Inter-segmental Committee of the Academic Senates (ICAS) from UC/CSU/CCCs at which advocacy strategies were discussed. Assemblyman Ira Ruskin advised ICAS to make clear to legislators the state's educational needs and to focus on how the segments are uniquely positioned to provide Californians with the skills they will need for the future.

V. Consultation with the President's Office – Susan Wilbur, Director of Undergraduate Admissions

ISSUE: Director Susan Wilbur will report on the outcomes of the fall 2009 Analytical Writing Placement Examination and AWPE budget and discuss plans for the May 2010 administration of the Analytical Writing Placement Exam. In addition, UC's involvement with the ACHIEVE project will be discussed. ACHIEVE is an inter-segmental state and national project about "closing the gap" between high school preparation and college and career expectations. Members are asked to peruse the ACHIEVE website at [www.achieve.org] prior to the meeting.

DISCUSSION:

2009 Data: Director Wilbur summarized highlights from the report: In all, 17,300 students took the exam in fall 2009; the report provides data on the 14,000 of these students who entered the University in the fall 2009 term. Just over half of the 2009 test takers successfully passed the exam... (see p. 3, Fall 2009 Report). She also shared with members an analytical report conducted by the vendor that is being discontinued after this year.

Administration of the AWPE: Director Wilbur provided background on historic challenges to make AWPE self-sustaining. She described guiding principals and strategies that her office has developed to address the structural deficit and a variety of cost-savings initiatives underway (listen to tape/see handout AWPE Executive Summary). George Gadda provided clarification to issues associated with test development, including fairness assessment, pre-testing, and the big read to score exams. He is hopeful that by working closing with the vendor, they will be able to customize a satisfactory on-line system for reading exams. One member questioned what obstacles might there be to keeping the test development components in-house, e.g., by UC faculty. Chair Alexander noted the overarching need to consider the pedagogical and curricular consequences associated with on-line scoring.

ACHIEVE Project: (see handout) Director Wilbur provided an overview of the ACHIEVE Project and the California/American Diploma Projects, as well as an update on where... Positive outcomes: segments coming together have resulted in fruitful collaborations; shared potential to shape the dialogue that's beneficial to the partners; defining college readiness and how readiness is assessed (e.g., how tests measure correspond to reading/writing/math curriculum standards at UC for incoming students).

VI. Discussion of Budget Concerns and the Future of Preparatory Education in the UC System – Chair Alexander and Members

ISSUE: Members will be asked to report on the impact of the budget situation on preparatory English and Math programs on their respective campus, with attention given to any areas of concern for UCOPE that might call for action by the committee in the future.

DISCUSSION:

(Santa Cruz) Programs are tremendously threatened; all preparatory math, chemistry, basic writing courses are vulnerable

(Irvine) Successful in putting to rest proposals to farm out writing and composition courses; assessment data proved very persuasive. Irvine will have new distance-learning program in place this summer to students to complete courses before arriving on campus and administered by Extension. Math and Composition programs will retain curricular control.

VI. Discussion of Budget Concerns and the Future of Preparatory Education in the UC System *(continued)*

(San Diego) Assessment data showing that current system falls short in preparing students to fulfilling basic requirement, along with documented cost-savings are key strengths of the proposal to exempt ±340 students from satisfying the ELWR and use of alternate measures.

(Santa Barbara) Writing program experienced lots of staff reductions; lost faculty development funds and staff FTE resulting in fewer courses being offered and longer waits for entry-level courses.

(Berkeley) Budget impacts have had direct and indirect impacts on preparatory Math programs in the PDP program. No impact on funding for General Education Courses in Math, Reading and Composition.

VII. New Business

- **Issues related to distance education and transfer students particularly with regard to ESL/ELL students** – *Chair Alexander*

DISCUSSION: Chair Alexander suggested that it would be useful for UCOPE to develop a position statement/paper for Council on the importance of preparatory Math and Writing courses; the importance of housing ESL/ELL programs on campuses; and the importance of preparatory education for transfer students.

ACTION: Chair Alexander asked members to send him information or data.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Attest: Jonathan Alexander, UCOPE Chair
Submitted by: Eric Zárate, Committee Analyst

UCOPE 2009-10 Meeting Schedule:

April 16, 2010 – Room 5320 (to be rescheduled)