

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON PREPARATORY EDUCATION

Minutes of Meeting
Friday, January 20, 2012
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/Informational Items – *Chair Jonathan Alexander*

- Welcome and Introductions
- Overview of Committee Charge, Processes, Member Roles and Responsibilities
- Review of UC/CSU Area ‘b’ English Requirement
- UCOPE website, SharePoint site

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

AWPE Committee Chair George Gadda led 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 –

Robert Powell, Academic Council Vice Chair

Todd Giedt, Academic Senate Associate Director

Senate leaders provided an overview of current issues of concern for the UC system and 2011-12 Academic Senate priorities.

Vice Chair Robert Powell discussed the Governor’s January proposed budget and future implications for the UC budget including projected cuts and strategies for generating revenue. He noted that the Regents discussed the issue of diversity and expressed their disappointment with the slow pace of progress to date.

V. Consultation with the President's Office –

Julie Lind, AWPE Analyst/ELC Coordinator

Kate Jeffery, Interim Director of Admissions/Director of Student Financial Services

Julie Lind reported on the outcomes of the fall 2011 Analytical Writing Placement Examination and AWPE budget and discussed plans for the May 2012 administration of the Analytical Writing Placement Exam.

Kate Jeffery led a discussion of the AWPE financial picture.

ACTION: UCOPE formed a subgroup (Kate Jeffery, Julie Lind, Jonathan Alexander, George Gadda) to work on collecting data useful for decision-making, (e.g., which tests provide the best indicators for satisfactory performance in freshman writing courses; the number of students for whom English is a second language) and on preparing recommendations to address the AWPE long-term fiscal challenges in time for discussion at the next UCOPE meeting on April 27.

VI. Online Instructional Pilot Project (OIPP) Update – Chair Alexander

Chair Alexander, as one of the co-PIs for the development of online “writing modules” and online writing courses, provided an update and answer questions.

VII. Transfer Proposal Revised DRAFT for BOARS Consideration – Chair Alexander

The proposed policy will increase UC's emphasis on major preparation in transfer admission and provides two new pathways to transfer that parallel the “entitled to review” feature of the 2012 Freshman Admission Policy. UC transfer applicants would be entitled to a review (though not guaranteed admission) if they meet a minimum GPA to be set by each campus and if they complete any one of three proposed pathway options: completion of UC Transfer Curricula; completion of an SB 1440 AA Degree for Transfer; or the current pathway specified in Senate Regulation 476. Each department at each campus will specify courses they want transfer applicants to complete and they will set selection criteria includes the quality of work in these courses. This information will be communicated to prospective students through ASSIST, for which a substantial revision will be implemented by summer 2013. UCOPE has been invited to review and submit comments to BOARS on the revised draft.

DISCUSSION: UCOPE members expressed support for the change in emphasis reflected in the revised draft that recommends that campus admissions officers look primarily for how well students are prepared for success in their major rather than just looking at their potential to complete their degree in two years. Members commented on how the seemingly uneven preparation of transfer students is related to the quality of the Community College attended.

ACTION: Chair Alexander will forward the above comments to BOARS.

VIII. UCI AWPE Student Success Study – Chair Alexander

DISCUSSION: Chair Alexander discussed and solicited feedback from UCOPE on the UCI AWPE Student Success Study from UCOPE members.

IX. Systemwide Math Diagnostic Test – Chair Alexander

*Last year, Prof. David Smith (UCSC) reported on the discussion at UCSC of a systematic offering of the **Mathematics Diagnostic Testing Project** exams, which were developed by CSU & UC and are already in use on most campuses, often for placement (including UCSC). The exams are really designed for diagnosis instead of placement, and the results are broken down into topics so that students can find out exactly what they need to work on. The idea is to give these under an official “wrapper” website (bearing UC logos, a welcoming message, etc.) in a fixed time window (like the writing test). The purpose of a fixed time window is to give the students a sense of urgency and have them actually do it instead of putting it off forever. The results would be returned to the students, and:*

- 1. They could be told what they would have placed into at the campus they’re going to (if that campus uses MDTP);*
- 2. The campus could choose to let the students use this iteration of the test for placement if they wanted to (but this is difficult unless the tests are supervised. Doing supervised, sit-down testing around the state, like the writing placement exam, is a separate discussion, which we can also consider, but which would be much more expensive); and/or*
- 3. Based on their detailed results, a list of suggested resources would be automatically mailed to them. This could include a suggestion to take a summer course at CC if possible, or to use some of the modules from ALEKS – Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces (not free, but a bargain), the Khan Academy (free), and other resources TBD (whatever the preparatory math faculty at all the campuses recommend to us).*

When the Committee last convened in April 2011, UCOPE members supported this concept and voted to put together a formal proposal to develop the intellectual framework and a written proposal for adopting this concept Systemwide. Links to the tests and the online study resources:

- <http://mdtp.ucsd.edu/>*
- <http://mdtp.ucsd.edu/OnLineTests.shtml>*
- <http://www.aleks.com/>*
- <http://www.khanacademy.org/>*

ACTION: Members will be asked to help collect information on what the campuses are already doing with respect to math diagnostic and placement process, develop the intellectual framework and prepare a written proposal for adopting this concept Systemwide in time for the next UCOPE meeting on April 27.

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

Members were 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.

Santa Cruz: Increasing enrollment, shedding of lecturers, the consolidation of course offerings.

Santa Barbara: Math programs severely affected, lecturers reassigned

Los Angeles: Cuts to the writing program and the number TAs teaching the composition component; rise in the number of International students showing up in undergraduate classes underprepared.

San Diego: Increase in international students and need for more spaces in specialized courses.

Irvine: UCI hosted a 1-day writing workshop; announced opening of a campus Writing Center.

Riverside: ELWR working well (1A and 1B); 1C has not been as successful.

XI. New Business

- Sustainability of AWPE test development model and deferment of the AWPE Committee's work for 2012-13.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Attest: Jonathan Alexander, Chair
Prepared by Eric Zárate, Committee Analyst

UCOPE 2011-12 Meeting Schedule:

January 20, 2012 – Room 5320

April 27, 2012 – Room 5320