

## UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON PREPARATORY EDUCATION

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Friday, January 24, 2014**  
**10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**  
**UCOP, 1111 Franklin Street, Oakland – Room 11326**  
**Primary Dial-In: 1-866-740-1260 | Passcode: 9879466**  
<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/>

**I. Chair's Report/Announcements – Chair Ross Frank**

- Welcome and Introductions
- Overview of Committee Charge, Processes, Member Roles and Responsibilities
- [Academic Senate Website](#) | [UCOPE Web page](#) | [UCOPE SharePont site](#)

**II. Consent Calendar**

- Approval of the Agenda

**ACTION:** *The agenda was approved as noticed.*

**III. Analytical Writing Placement Exam (AWPE) Review and Selection of Essay Prompts – George Gadda, UCLA Writing Program and AWPE Committee Chair**

*Before launching into the discussion, AWPE Committee Chair George Gadda, reviewed the nuts and bolts of selecting the AWSE essay prompts, including related elements such as testing and pre-testing and administration.*

*Note: Meeting notes were not recorded for the UCOPE discussion in keeping with past practices specific to the Committee's deliberation on this specific topic.*

**IV. Consultation with the President's Office –**

*Han Mi Yoon-Wu, Manager of Admissions Operations*

*Julie Lind, University of California Undergraduate Admissions*

Julie Lind reported that UCOP will be issuing an RFP for a vendor to administer the AWPE; the current vendor contract expires soon. The AWPE exam fee will not increase this year. After years of operating in red, the program has achieved financial stability and sustained profitability, fulfilling its designation as a self-supporting program for three years running.

One thousand fewer students took the 2013 May AWPE exam. The draft ELWR Report will be shared with the committee in April. The results of the May test will be available to the campuses the week of June 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Discussion:** Chair Frank asked members to consider what questions should be asked in order to validate that the AWPE continues to test for the abilities important for entering students to come equipped with out of high school matriculate into college level writing courses.

**V. President’s Community College Transfer to UC Initiative – Chair Frank and Members**

One of several recently announced President’s Initiatives, the Community College Transfer to UC Initiative calls for streamlining the transfer preparation process, as well as admissions selection and articulation. Preliminary recommendations of particular interest to UCOPE that are being considered include: Creating clear and consistent pre-major pathways, adopting the use of C-ID for systemwide and campus articulation, and establishing UC-CCC faculty partnerships between each UC campus and three low transfer-rate campuses to create transfer-appropriate courses, discuss curricula, and advise high-performing students.

Chair Frank commented on the transfer initiative and shared his beliefs

**VI. UC Systemwide Math Diagnostic Test**

**Discussion:** Last year, UCOPE discussed the possibility of giving incoming students a diagnostic test to determine if they should take classes over the summer to improve their fall math placement grades. Members suggested that the Math Diagnostic Placement Test (MDPT), which was developed with UCSD, could be used as a strong generic test. Auspiciously, the MDTP Project has informally stated its willingness to work with UC to develop such a systemwide math diagnostic test if asked. The current lack of assessment in math has resulted in students taking (and then dropping) classes that are not well-suited to their skill level. It was suggested that UCOPE establish a work group to produce a diagnostic test (or to vet an existing test). UCOPE members agreed to continue to consider potential next steps.

**VII. Standardization of the Awarding of Advanced Placement (AP) Credit Across the UC System – Chair Frank and Members**

**Discussion:** Members agreed to craft a memorandum to be sent to UCEP that conveys UCOPE’s take on this issue, mainly that UCOPE observes that across the system, the practice has been not been very uniform resulting in the very uneven practice of excluding students from preparatory classes based upon their high school AP scores. The statement will note that UCOPE strongly recommends that each campus to revisit its current practices in relation to how it awards course credit and sets eligibility requirements for enrolling in preparatory writing and math courses, among others. Members volunteered to send Chair Frank some rough verbiage for the memo.

**Action:** The chair and analyst will draft a memo and circulate to the committee.

**VIII. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership –**

*William Jacob, Academic Council Chair*  
*Mary Gilly, Academic Council Vice Chair*

Chair Jacob and Vice Chair Gilly joined the committee to discuss various issues of interest to UCOPE including the transfer initiative and the Innovative Learning Technology Initiative.

**IX. Transferable Course Agreement Guidelines – Chair Frank and Members**

Last year, the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) issued a statement on the mathematical preparation of all undergraduates entering the University of California. This statement declares that going forward, all students must complete the basic mathematics defined by the college-ready standards of the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics (CCSSM) prior to enrolling in a UC-transferable college mathematics or statistics course.

**Discussion:** As the systemwide Senate committee concerned with preparatory and remedial education, including mathematics, UCOPE members vetted a number of arguments related to the BOARS discussion of the requirement for “intermediate algebra or the equivalent” in the prerequisites for transferable math courses offered in community colleges. Early discussions among UCOPE members suggested that changing the prerequisite requirement to focus on the Common Core standards is not an appropriate approach.

**Action:** UCOPE agreed to send a memorandum to MDTP and UCLA College Writing Department.

**X. Discussion of Budget Concerns and the Future of Preparatory Education in the UC System**

This item was not discussed.