

**Minutes of Meeting
January 25, 2008**

I. Welcome and Introductions

Jan Frodesen, UCOPE Chair

Members

Members, consultants, and students in attendance introduced themselves and their fields.

II. Chair's Announcements

Jan Frodesen, UCOPE Chair

Chair Frodesen presented an overview of the committee's charge, as well as of several issues before the committee this year: ESL concerns, especially Merced's developing program and San Diego's now-postponed review of outsourced ESL instruction; the use of community college courses to satisfy the Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR); and better assessing and addressing the needs of transfer students. Chair Frodesen also updated the committee on the Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates (ICAS) which held meetings in September and December; the September meeting was largely devoted to issues surrounding the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC); Chair Frodesen was unable to attend the December meeting, but scheduled agenda topics included high school competency statements, textbook costs, and the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE).

Analyst Feer presented an overview of the Academic Senate Document Database upon which the committee may now post and review documents (see Distribution 1).

III. Consent Calendar

ACTION: The minutes of the April 20, 2007, meeting were approved as amended.

IV. Analytical Writing Placement Examination (AWPE): Review and Selection of Essay Prompts

George Gadda, UCLA Writing Program

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

ACTION: The preferred and alternate essay prompts for this spring's AWPE administration were selected.

V. Consultation with the Office of the President

Susan Wilbur, Director of Undergraduate Admission

Jeanne Hargrove, Coordinator of High School Articulation and AWPE

Director Wilbur updated the committee on three issues:

1. IGETC and Senate Regulation (SR) 478

ISSUE: SR 478 states that an AP score of 5 or better may be used to satisfy part of the IGETC transfer requirements for English. Campus practice does not align with this regulation; most campuses accept a score of 4. See Distribution 2.

DISCUSSION: As a general principle, members support raising requirements, not lowering them. Members also discussed the connotations of SR 478’s language of “can be used.” However, many were unclear on the second part of the requirement and whether it referred to quarters or semesters. Director Wilbur indicated that students must still take a second CCC composition course, but she will investigate further and report back at the April meeting.

ACTION: Pending the results of her investigation, Director Wilbur will help draft an amendment to SR 478 to alleviate this problem.

ACTION: Analyst Feer will research the previous amendment to SR 478 to provide additional information to Director Wilbur.

2. AWPE Debt Recovery

ISSUE: As part of the Office of the President’s restructuring and efficiency efforts, Director Wilbur has been asked to explore options for reducing and eliminating AWPE’s long-running deficit, which is currently about \$500K. Complications to overcome include: testing center capacity and reliability; an increasing number of test takers; a shortage of readers; and fee increases, which have already occurred twice in the last five years. Three possibilities to reduce the number of test takers, for discussion only at this point, are 1) to exempt more students by lowering the acceptable standardized test scores from 680 to 600, for example (see Distribution 3); 2) to raise the minimum score for test eligibility, *e.g.* students who score at least 500 on the SAT Writing test may take the AWPE, and students who score below 500 must automatically register for ELWR; and 3) to reevaluate the AWPE and its administration in general by exploring options such as campus administration and scoring.

DISCUSSION: Members queried several aspects of the possible modes of redress: the overlap between AP exemptions and AWPE test takers due to timing issues; how the on-campus math assessment differs from the AWPE; how many students placed out of ELWR who should not have; the option of machine-read tests; and the impact of recent upward trends in the number of test takers. No one was comfortable with option 2 because there would be no opportunity for ESL designation—when evaluating AWPE papers, the E designation is used for campus placements and for documenting the need for ESL support, whether in ESL or writing programs. Option 3 was not seen as a viable way to save the University money as it would merely shift the onus from OP to the campuses.

ACTION: Director Wilbur’s office will rerun statistical data to illustrate more overlaps and exemptions and revisit the issue at the April meeting.

3. Analysis of First Year Students

ISSUE: In an attempt to evaluate the impact of the new SATs, campus registrars have requested data on the performance of first year students.

ACTION: Director Wilbur’s office will prepare and circulate a letter of support.

Coordinator Hargrove presented data on the 2007 AWPE administration, which saw both the highest pass rate in years as well as the highest percentage of test takers to be E-designated (15.4%). She also noted that the “Big Read” would not be held on Memorial Day weekend this year, in hopes of securing more readers.

VI. Senate Regulation 636

See Item VII below.

VII. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership

Michael Brown, Academic Council Chair

After welcoming members and reiterating the committee's responsibilities, Chair Brown updated the committee on several issues:

- SR 636: The simplification of the regulation was approved by the Assembly, but the class-size cap was not. It is unclear whether this is attributable to the length of the process and personnel turnover, a changing external financial environment, or confusion. Nevertheless, some voluntary compliance with the proposed cap is evident.
- UC's Budget: At present, the University is preparing for a 10% budget shortfall as indicated by the state's overall budgetary posture. The impact of this on the recently implemented faculty salary adjustments is unclear. The impact on LSOEs' and Unit 18 lecturers' pay is even more opaque.
- WASC Report: The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), the organization which accredits UC, recently issued a report on the University's governance. The relationship between the Office of the President and the Regents was singled out as especially problematic. The full report, along with the Academic Council's response, is available online [here](#).
- OP Restructuring: This process was initially viewed as streamlining OP to increase efficiency. However, given the state's budget situation and other demands, significant changes in personnel and responsibilities can be expected. The full extent of the changes is not yet fully known.
- Presidential Search: The search for the next systemwide president continues, but it has encountered several obstacles, ranging from bad press to the state budget to internal UC uncertainty.
- Eligibility Reform: BOARS has been asked to revise its proposal in light of feedback from the systemwide committees and the divisions. One specific concern was the accuracy and depth of the data presented in support of the proposal.
- Diversity: The Regents' reports are designed to assess UC's diversity ten years after the passage of Proposition 209. We believe the goals of 209 and UC's diversity advocates are parallel; it is the method of achieving those goals that presents challenges.

VIII. Update on ESL Advisory Group

Jan Frodesen, UCOPE Chair

Chair Frodesen provided an overview of the issues that will be considered at the ESL Advisory Group's March meeting. Topics of note include better assessing the skills of international teaching assistants, ESL budget concerns, developing a fiscal impact statement for last year's transfer student report, using the SAT Writing test for E-designations, and evaluating TOEFL-ibt's net-based oral examination for instructor certification.

IX. ELWR and CCC Courses

Item not addressed due to time considerations.

X. Systemwide Review Items

- Report of the Joint Ad Hoc Committee on International Education

DISCUSSION: Members raised several concerns with the report and with international education generally. Regarding the report, members noted that curricula often do not align between UC and schools abroad, causing those in highly structured programs to forego studying abroad or to lose a year of undergraduate credit. Outsourcing the administration of study abroad programs to third parties needs more vetting and explanation. If the goal is to double the number of participants in the program, members wondered how additional advisors would be hired, especially in this difficult budget time. Concerns not addressed by the report included assessing and addressing the needs of reciprocal students, those that UC hosts: some incoming students need ESL support; TOEFL scores for acceptance are inconsistent across the campuses, and often within a campus; and many campuses do not afford reciprocal students the opportunity to receive tutoring. Also, incoming students have sometimes received inadequate counseling and have not met prerequisites and thus experience exacerbated difficulty registering for classes.

ACTION: Analyst Feer will draft a response to be vetted by the committee prior to submission to the Academic Council.

- Regents' Task Force Diversity Reports

DISCUSSION: Members observed that poor relations with K-12 and CCCs have harmed UC's efforts to enhance its diversity. Members further queried whether quantification was the best method to assess the University's diversity.

ACTION: Chair Frodesen will send specific questions relating to the undergraduate and campus climate reports to the committee for evaluation and discussion prior to crafting the committee's formal response.

XI. Planning and New Business

DISCUSSION: Members revisited AWPE cost efficiency versus exam methodological and diagnostic uniqueness and the OP restructuring effort.

ACTION: Members will continue to monitor each issue closely and discuss them with campus counterpart committees.

Adjournment: 4:10 p.m.

Distributions:

1. Academic Senate Document Database Sample Slides
2. Senate Regulation 478
3. AWPE Test Takers Statistical Charts

Appendix:
Attendance Record

Prepared by: Kenneth Feer, Senior Analyst
Attest: Jan Frodesen, UCOPE Chair