



Steven W. Cheung
Chair, Assembly of the
Academic Senate
Faculty Representative,
UC Board of Regents
Academic Senate

Office of the President
1111 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94607

senate.universityofcalifornia.edu

CAMPUSES

Berkeley
Davis
Irvine
UCLA
Merced
Riverside
San Diego
San Francisco
Santa Barbara
Santa Cruz

MEDICAL CENTERS

Davis
Irvine
UCLA
San Diego
San Francisco

NATIONAL LABORATORIES

Lawrence Berkeley
Lawrence Livermore
Los Alamos

February 5, 2025

Academic Senate Division Chairs
Systemwide Academic Senate Committee Chairs

Re: Systemwide Senate Review of Proposed Revisions to Senate Bylaw 170
and Rescission of Senate Bylaw 192

Dear Colleagues,

I am forwarding for systemwide Senate review proposed revisions to [Senate Bylaw 170](#) and the rescission of [Senate Bylaw 192](#), presented by the University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE), and approved by the Academic Council for systemwide review.

The revisions eliminate UCOPE and reassign its remaining duties to the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP), in recognition that most of UCOPE's core functions have become redundant following structural changes in preparatory education oversight. With the discontinuation of the University's Analytical Writing Placement Examination (AWPE) in 2022, individual campuses now manage their own placement assessments, reducing the need for a dedicated systemwide committee to handle this responsibility.

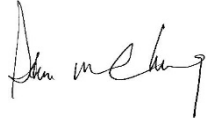
In addition, UCOPE's Entry Level Writing Requirement Coordinating Council (ECC) and English for Multilingual Students Advisory Group (EMSAG) could both be shifted under UCEP as subcommittees, creating a more focused and integrated governance model.

Finally, six of the nine undergraduate Senate divisions have already sunsetted their corresponding Preparatory Education committees and reassigned their duties. This proposal is in alignment with practices at the divisional level.

Please submit comments to the systemwide Academic Senate Office at SenateReview@ucop.edu by April 23, 2025, to allow us to compile and summarize comments for the Academic Council's April 30 meeting, when next steps for this proposal will be considered. As always, any committee that considers these matters outside its jurisdiction or charge may decline to comment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven W. Cheung". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steven" and last name "Cheung" clearly distinguishable.

Steven W. Cheung
Chair, Academic Council

cc: Senate Division Executive Directors
Senate Executive Director Lin



Proposal to Sunset the University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE)

This is a University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE) proposal to rescind [Senate Bylaw \(SBL\) 192](#) and reassign UCOPE's remaining duties to [SBL 170](#) (University Committee on Education Policy [UCEP]).

Justification

- UCOPE's assigned duties have effectively been reassigned as a result of evolving structures and related developments.
 - UCOPE's primary task recently has been to assess the University's Analytical Writing Placement Examination (AWPE) and its interaction with the Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR), and to assess math placement processes in a similar manner.
 - In Spring of 2022, the AWPE was discontinued, and the campuses have been allowed to introduce their own assessment tools.
 - In response, UCOPE has convened the ELWR Coordinating Council (ECC).
 - UCOPE has long convened the English for Multilingual Students Advisory Group (EMSAG), whose membership overlaps with the ECC due to the locus of placement programs at each campus; membership overlaps exist, not just departmental co-location. Combining the two groups and leveraging their resources could yield better results given recent, COVID and post-pandemic-related changes to placement programs.
 - Six of the nine Senate divisions with undergraduate have already sunsetted their corresponding Preparatory Education committees and reassigned their duties as indicated; this proposal would align the systemwide Senate with divisional best practices.
- UCOPE's duties are internally inconsistent as written.
 - The membership subsection (B.1) indicates participation from the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS); however, the designated duties involve post-matriculation issues, not undergraduate admissions issues.

Proposal

- UCOPE's remaining duties shall be reassigned to UCEP.
 - UCEP will continue, and may logically combine, the ECC and EMSAG in a manner that follows the subcommittee structure employed by the University Committee on Faculty Welfare's (UCFW) Task Forces on Health Care and on Investment & Retirement.
 - This structure allows subject matter experts on the task force to issue targeted guidance to the representative members on the parent committee.
 - This structure also allows for flexibility in task force membership, permitting timely responses to involve expert faculty on emerging issues.
- The need to coordinate with BOARS regarding communications of academic preparation standards will remain, but the need of an independent committee to do so is in question.

Discussion

Pros:

- A more focused voice of faculty experts would reflect the call to leverage Senate expertise on preparatory education concerns within an educational policy context.
- A more unified Senate voice on the impacted issues can lead to greater administration investments and therefore better student outcomes.
- Divisional Senate analysts may be better empowered to help coordinate Senate faculty efforts.

Cons:

- Local committees on undergraduate education policy are already overworked, and preparatory education issues are already receiving too little attention. This proposal could further minimize the latter while reinforcing the former.
- Preparatory education in disciplines beyond English, such as math, chemistry, or biology, may be further marginalized.
- There is a need for a central oversight body to devote attention to preparatory education. A reconceiving of UCOPE's bylaw to reflect changes in its oversight purview may be a more appropriate solution.



170. Educational Policy

- A. Membership shall be determined in accordance with Bylaw 128 and include one member appointed from the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS). One undergraduate and one graduate student shall sit with the Committee. [See [Bylaw 128.E](#) .] The Vice Chair shall be chosen according with Bylaw 128.D. (Am 29 Nov 72, 7 Dec 76: Am 28 May 2003)
- B. Duties. Consistent with [Bylaw 40](#) , the Committee shall: (Am 28 May 2003)
1. Consider and report on matters referred to it by the President of the University, the Assembly, a Division, or any Senate committee.
 2. Initiate appropriate studies and make reports thereon to the President, the Assembly, or any Division, on the establishment or disestablishment of curricula, colleges, schools, departments, institutes, bureaus, and the like, and on legislation or administrative policies of a fundamental character involving questions of educational policy. (Am 15 Jun 71)
 3. Approve UC undergraduate courses as system-wide courses to be listed in Divisional catalogues. (En 10 Nov 04)
 4. Monitor campuses' implementation of [Senate Regulation 761](#).
 - a. Supervise the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement with special emphasis on establishing appropriate and uniform Universitywide standards for the University of California Analytical Writing Placement Exam [formerly called the Subject A Examination]. (Am 19 Feb 2004).
 - b. Monitor the development and use of placement examinations in mathematics.
 - c. Work with BOARS to communicate these standards to all high schools and colleges in the State of California.

192. Preparatory Education

(Formerly numbered 215) (Am 4 June 91; CC 28 May 2003)

- A.—Membership shall be determined in accordance with Bylaw 128 and include one member appointed from the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS). One undergraduate student and one graduate student shall sit with the Committee. [See Bylaw 128.E.] The Vice Chair shall be chosen in accordance with Bylaw 128.D. (Am 28 May 2003)
- B.—Duties. Consistent with Bylaw 40 the Committee shall: (Am 28 May 2003)
- 1.—Advise the President and appropriate agencies of the Senate on matters relating to preparatory and remedial education, including the language needs of students from diverse linguistic backgrounds. (Am 28 May 2003)
 - 2.—Monitor and conduct periodic reviews and evaluations of preparatory and remedial education.
 - 3.—Supervise the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement with special emphasis on establishing appropriate and uniform Universitywide standards for the University of California Analytical Writing Placement Exam [formerly called the Subject A Examination]. (Am 19 Feb 2004)
 - 4.—Monitor the development and use of placement examinations in mathematics.
 - 5.—Work with BOARS to communicate these standards to all high schools and colleges in the State of California.
 - 6.—Monitor campuses' implementation of [Senate Regulation 761](#).
 - 7.—Facilitate the establishment of Divisional committees with comparable responsibilities, and promote communication between them.
 - 8.—Report on preparatory and remedial education to the Academic Council, the Assembly, and the other appropriate Senate agencies. (Am 30 Nov 83)