

## **UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY (UCEP) 2007-2008 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:**

The University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) met six times and held one additional conference call in Academic Year 2007-08 to conduct business with respect to its duties as outlined in [Senate Bylaw 170](#) and in the Universitywide Review Processes for Academic Programs, Academic Units, and Research Units (the “[Compendium](#)”). The major activities of the committee and the issues it addressed this year are outlined briefly, as follows:

#### **BOARS Proposal to Reform Freshman Eligibility Policy**

UCEP made significant contributions to the systemwide Senate review of the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) proposal to reform UC freshman eligibility policy, also known as “Entitled to Review” (ETR). UCEP submitted detailed memos to Academic Council in December 2007, commenting on BOARS’ original proposal, and in May 2008, responding to BOARS’ revised proposal. The BOARS chair also attended a portion of the November UCEP meeting to answer questions.

In both memos, UCEP expressed strong support for the principles and goals underlying BOARS’ efforts – to broaden the eligibility pool, encourage selection of the best students for admission to UC, and increase admission from underrepresented and low-income groups. The Committee also unanimously supported the recommendations for eliminating the SAT-II Subject test requirement and adding more flexibility into the a-g requirement.

In its December memo, UCEP suggested several policy alternatives that would be substantially similar to BOARS’ proposal, but would retain a transparent statewide admission referral guarantee to a larger proportion of students than the 4% currently guaranteed through Eligibility in a Local Context (ELC). In May, UCEP again expressed a strong consensus of support for the overall intent of the revised proposal, which incorporated UCEP’s suggestion to increase the proportion of students offered a guarantee; however, the committee was evenly split with regard to the specific guarantee structure, with half endorsing the BOARS proposal as written, and the other half in favor of a reduced ELC guarantee.

#### **Remote and Online Instruction and Residency Requirements**

A UCEP/CCGA (Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs)/ UCCC (Committee on Computing and Communications) subcommittee met twice to discuss the relationship of distance learning and online instruction pedagogy to UC quality and UC residency requirements. Wanting to initiate a broader faculty discussion about these issues, the subcommittee submitted a *Dialectic on the Use of Remote and Online Instruction for the Delivery of University Curriculum* to Council in December. Council circulated the Dialectic to divisional chairs and systemwide committees for informal input and comment, which revealed support for some systemwide Senate role in crafting minimum standards, as long as such regulation continued to allow for divisional autonomy. UCEP discussed these issues at several meetings and transmitted their views to the subcommittee through Chair Williams. In July, the subcommittee asked Council to establish a Special Senate Committee to discuss the topic in more depth. The Special Committee will begin meeting next year.

### **Undergraduate Education Mission Statement and Academic Planning**

UCEP provided input into a draft mission statement intended to guide the Undergraduate Education Planning Group (UEPG) in its consideration of long-term goals and challenges for undergraduate education. Academic Council also sent the Mission Statement to Senate divisions for informal review and comment. In addition, UCEP discussed two task forces proposed by the Academic Planning Council to study possible mechanisms for measuring educational objectives and learning outcomes. Beginning in fall 2008, an Undergraduate Education Effectiveness Task Force will study best practices for identifying and articulating the educational objectives of UC academic programs and methods for evaluating the success of those programs, and a Postgraduate Outcomes Task Force will identify procedures aimed at gathering information about UC graduates that will help UC measure educational effectiveness.

### **Survey of Campus Program Review Practices and Issues**

UCEP developed a template questionnaire for committee members to collect information about local undergraduate program review practices. The committee analyst synthesized campus responses to the survey, and in July, UCEP submitted a summary of the results to the Academic Council along with a request that they be forwarded to the campus Senate divisions and appropriate UCOP administrators as information. UCEP believes the data will help campuses identify best practices for program reviews and ultimately build more efficiency and effectiveness into their local processes. The information may also help UC planning agencies identify best practices for integrating learning objectives and outcomes assessments into the program review process.

### **Strategic Planning Initiative for Multi-campus and Off-campus Programs**

Office of the President consultants attended three UCEP meetings to update and seek advice from the committee about a UCOP effort to define and address administrative obstacles and inefficiencies involving courses that enroll students from multiple campuses. The project is intended to increase administrative efficiencies and minimize barriers that discourage development of new programs, consume unnecessary time and resources, and inhibit student enrollment. UCEP members helped identify affected programs, provided their views about impediments to educational access and delivery, and made suggestions for vetting multi-campus programs and courses at the local level.

### **University of California Center in Washington (UCDC) Proposed Systemwide Course**

UCDC Director Bruce Cain and Administrator Rodger Rak joined the December meeting by phone to discuss the status of the proposed UCDC systemwide quarter/semester hybrid course *California on the Hill*, which UCEP gave its provisional approval to last year. In March, UCEP sent a memo to UCDC summarizing the status of UCEP's deliberations about the course and the remaining issues to resolve around the systemwide course approval process. Later, UCEP discussed a step-by-step process for systemwide course submission and approval, and the designation of units for quarter and semester students. Still to be worked out are mechanisms to enable the listing of systemwide courses in campus and/or systemwide catalogs, to allow students to register and receive credit for those courses, and to designate them on transcripts.

### **Concern about Student-to-Faculty Ratio and Class Size**

UCEP sought meaningful data to illuminate its growing concern about the effect of rising student-faculty ratios on educational quality and faculty workload. The Committee reviewed a UCSC study on class size and discussed data compiled by UCEP Chair Williams examining changes in the number of classrooms of various sizes as a proportion of the total at UC Davis between 1999-2000 and 2006-07, relative to campus enrollment, broken down by instructor type, and division level. As a long-term goal, UCEP wants to refine the Davis protocols and have all campuses replicate the data to give UCEP a systemwide view of trends in class size and the percentage of classes taught by ladder faculty.

### **Report of the Joint Ad Hoc Committee on International Education**

Margaret Heisel and former Assistant Vice President for Budget Jerry Kissler joined the December meeting to discuss and answer questions about the joint ad hoc committee report. UCEP submitted views to Council in February, noting strong support for the general principles of education abroad, for the mission of UCEAP, and for increasing the number of students studying abroad as long as current academic quality is maintained. The Committee also expressed concern that increasing access to international education in the ways outlined in the report could be inconsistent with maintaining quality if UCEAP's immersion model is diluted and/or the use of third party providers increases.

### **Proposed Amendment to SR 636 – Capping Enrollment of ELWR courses**

In October, UCEP reviewed the University Committee on Preparatory Education's (UCOPE) proposed amendment to Senate Regulation 636, mandating a systemwide cap of 20 students on the enrollment of entry-level writing requirement (ELWR) courses. UCEP sent a memo to Council opposing the 20-student cap based on two issues of concern: the indefiniteness of funding and the general question of whether mandates should be imposed on campuses for writing class size only without regard to other academic areas.

### **Streamlining Articulation and Transfer Preparation Paths**

Undergraduate Admissions Director Susan Wilbur joined UCEP at one meeting to discuss the implementation of Senate Resolution [477](#) (Streamlining the Major Preparation Course Articulation Process), [California Senate Bill 652](#), and *UC Transfer Preparation Paths*, which are intended to facilitate the transfer of students from California Community Colleges to UC. UCEP reviewed a set of *Transfer Path* draft documents covering systemwide and campus-specific requirements for the chemistry major that were revised over the course of the year to reflect UCEP suggestions.

### **Part-Time Enrollment Policy**

In December, Director of Policy and External Affairs Nina Robinson joined UCEP to discuss the possibility of increasing the use of part-time enrollment as a means to broaden access to UC and maintain enrollment-based funding. In general, UCEP did not support the idea, but thought UC might look into possible hybrid models that would allow students to enroll part-time for a limited number of quarters. UCOP told UCEP that it would develop more specific ideas for future Senate discussion and reaction.

### **The Role of Graduate Students in University Instruction**

UCEP discussed the progress of the joint UCEP-CCGA report *The Role of Graduate Students in University Instruction*, which was released for a second round of systemwide review in late 2007. In April, Council endorsed a [compromise version](#) of the report that emphasized an obligation for campuses to provide mentoring and oversight of graduate student instructors of record by faculty, continued to mandate Senate approval for graduate students teaching upper-division courses, but also made it clear that campuses are free to impose stricter requirements, such as requiring Senate approval for lower-division teaching by graduate instructors as well.

### **Review of Proposed Schools and Degree Programs**

As a Compendium committee, UCEP participated in the review of the following proposed Schools and submitted thoughtful, detailed views and analyses to the CCGA chair:

- **Proposal for a UC Davis School of Public Health** (*November 2007*)
- **Proposal for a UC Riverside School of Public Policy** (*February 2008*)
- **Proposal for a UC Riverside School of Medicine** (*May 2008*)
- **Proposal for a UC Davis School of Nursing** (*May 2008*)

The Committee also submitted views on the following to Academic Council:

- **Preliminary Proposals for Three New Schools:** *UC Merced School of Medicine; UC Irvine School of Nursing Science; and UC San Francisco School of Global Health*
- **Five-Year Perspective of Academic Programs 2008-2013**

In general, UCEP supported the development of new graduate and professional schools, particularly those will enhance educational opportunities at developing campuses and benefit underserved regions of California. There were also concerns about funding models for some of the Schools and their potential effects on undergraduate education, especially on the ability of existing programs to adequately educate their undergraduates if both FTE and existing faculty are redirected to the new Schools. UCEP urged that undergraduate education not get lost in the academic shuffle and that UC do more to communicate the harmful effects of the budget cuts on undergraduate education.

### **Other Issues and Additional Business**

In response to requests for formal comment from the Academic Council, UCEP also issued views on the following:

- **Report of the Regents' Task Force on Diversity**
- **UCSF Division Request for Variance to Senate Regulation 750.B**
- **UCSC Division Proposed Undergraduate Honors Legislation**
- **Information Technology Guidance Committee Report "Creating a UC Cyberinfrastructure"**
- **BOARS Proposal to Repeal Senate Regulation 458**
- **ICAS' Proposed Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum "notes"**

- **University Committee on Academic Freedom Concerns about UCEAP Study Abroad Travel Restrictions Policy**

#### *Student-Related Policy Issues*

- **Proposed Amendment to California State Law re: Involuntary Psychiatric Holds (5150) for College and University Students**
- **Proposed Amendments to Section 102.05 of the Systemwide Policy on Student Conduct and Discipline** (*misuse of computing resources- e.g., copyright infringement*)
- **UC Policy and Guidelines on On-Campus Marketing of Credit Cards to Students**

UCEP also discussed concerns about funding of the California Science and Math Initiative; a California Senate resolution recommending that UCEAP revise its policies to allow students to study in countries with less severe US State Department travel advisories; and concerns about the use of exit exams as a reliable and appropriate method of baccalaureate outcome assessment. Finally, UCEP touched on a variety of other issues related to the business of the Academic Council, Academic Assembly, and the work of campus Committees on Educational Policy.

#### **UCEP Representation**

UCEP Chair Keith Williams represented the committee at meetings of the Academic Council, Academic Assembly, and the Academic Planning Council, and regularly attended meetings of the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates and the Remote/Online Instruction Subcommittee.

#### **Committee Consultations and Acknowledgements**

UCEP benefited from consultation and reports from Vice Provost Dan Greenstein; Deputy to the Vice Provost Margaret Heisel; and Teaching, Learning, and Technology Center Director Paula Murphy on the Strategic Planning Initiative for Multi-campus and Off-campus Programs, and on transfer issues from Director of Undergraduate Admissions Susan Wilbur. In addition, UCEP occasionally consulted the Academic Senate chair and vice-chair, who updated the committee on issues facing the Academic Council and Senate, and the systemwide Senate executive director, who spoke to UCEP about committee and administrative matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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