

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
MINUTES
OCTOBER 1, 2021

PRESENT: J. Allison, Chair; L. Mangolini, Vice Chair; B. Wong, UCEP Rep.; W. Beyermann; M. Casselman; W. Chen; P. Gorecki; M. Lang; A. Litt; C. Lussier; M. Maduro; E. Schwitzgebel; A. Sood; C. Zhou

ABSENT: B. Babcock

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 10:00AM.

After introductions, the bylaws of the Committee were reviewed.

The Committee reviewed and voted to approve the minutes from the July 2, 2021 meeting.

The Committee reviewed the Conflict of Interest Statement for the 2021-2022 academic year and voted to approve the statement with an edit to note that it is the obligation of the member and/or any committee member aware of a potential conflict of interest.

The University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) representative Bryan Wong did not have an update as UCEP's first meeting is scheduled for October 4, 2021.

The Committee reviewed the subcommittee assignments for the review of undergraduate program changes and undergraduate program reviews.

The Committee reviewed a proposed process for the review of combined degree programs. The Committee voted to approve the process with the recommendation that the process be updated to note that the reviews should be conducted closely after the review of the standalone undergraduate and graduate program reviews of the same majors. The proposed revised process will be sent to Graduate Council for review.

The Committee reviewed the Committee on Courses proposed new Guidelines for Courses and Instruction and had a robust discussion. Some members supported the proposed requirement that learning outcomes be included on course syllabi because it is important to inform students of what they will be learning in a course, while other members expressed concern with the requirement because it can be difficult for instructors to specify learning outcomes before a course is taught, especially if the pedagogy encourages student engagement in course goals and pace. The Committee recommended that learning outcomes be encouraged but not required on course syllabi. The Committee noted concern that the guidelines did not include protocols for ensuring online courses are taught as designed and approved and noted that it is reasonable to anticipate some divergence of the course from its approved form and content. Additionally, the Committee noted concern that the guidelines include the requirement for specifics about online courses that are likely to become outdated. The Committee recommended that recommendation 2. in I.6.d.iv be restated so that the word "canned" is removed and details about each element of the course content are provided. Additionally, the Committee was concerned that the bulleted list provided for

recommendation 2. in I.6.d.iv. is needlessly prescriptive as software platforms change frequently. Lastly, the Committee recommended that parameters for specifying “course ownership” might be incorporated into recommendation 3. In I.6.f.ii. The Chair will summarize the Committee’s discussion and recommendations in a memo to the Senate Chair that will be sent to the Committee for consideration of final approval.

The Committee reviewed the draft WSCUC special visit report and generally agreed that the report reflected the actions the Campus has taken to address the recommendations from the 2018 report. The Committee was appreciative of the report’s documentation of campus support for flexibility at the program level and encourages campus to support commiserate flexibility in campus-wide assessment processes to allow for faculty to determine the appropriate assessment method for their disciplines. The Chair will summarize the Committee’s discussion and recommendations in a memo to the Senate Chair that will be sent to the Committee for consideration of final approval.

The Chair reminded the Committee of the concerns over the past two years with the increased number of exceptions to the 180 unit graduate requirement that have been received for the Committee’s review from CHASS. The Chair shared with the Committee that concern was noted that the discrepancy of units was also increasing on requests so that some students were missing a full a course. The Chair informed the Committee that the CHASS Associate Dean for Student Academic Affairs, campus articulation officer, and Registrar will attend a Fall quarter meeting of the Committee to address the issue and discuss how the occurrences of requests can be minimized going forward.

The Committee began to review the Ad Hoc General Education Review Committee’s proposal for a new UCR general education curriculum. Committee members who also served on the ad hoc committee provided the Committee with an overview of the proposal. The Chair encouraged all members to review the proposal so that the Committee’s response to the document can be finalized at the November 5, 2021 meeting.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:06PM.

Approved: November 5, 2021

Prepared by: Beth Beatty