

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 2021

PRESENT: S. Vidussi, Chair; G. Long, Vice Chair; J. Allison, UCEP Rep.; B. Babcock; G. Funning; E. Goodman; J. Guo; I. Kaloshian; C. Lussier; M. Maduro; L. Mangolini; B. Wong; F. Zarinebaf

GUEST: M. Assaf, ASUCR Student Representative; C. Simons, GSA Student Representative

ABSENT: A. Sood; C. Zhou

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

The Chair informed the Committee that ASUCR has forwarded several resolutions to the Academic Senate regarding the timeline for withdrawals and grade changes during remote instruction.

The Committee reviewed and voted to approve the minutes from December 4, 2020 meeting.

The Committee's representative to the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) Juliann Allison provided the Committee with an update from UCEP and informed the Committee that UCEP's next meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2021. At their meeting on December 7, 2020 UCEP discussed grading options particularly options for P/NP. UCEP also discussed how student representatives participate on Senate Committees and the need for anti-racism training on campuses. UCEP reviewed the proposal for online degrees and most campuses were not supportive. Lastly, the UCEP had a discussion on how remote instruction policies have affected enrollment.

The Committee reviewed a proposal for a BS+MS in Microbiology combined five year degree program and voted to support the proposal. However, the Committee did note several editorial errors that they recommended be corrected before the proposal is finalized. The Chair will send the Committee's support and recommended edits to the Senate Chair.

The Committee reviewed the UCR Academic Advising Review Report and noted that the report was thorough and included reasonable recommendations. The Committee was supportive of the recommendation for peer mentoring as it will provide students with more discipline specific information. Concern was noted by members that the report does not mention the contentious issue of whether advising should happen at the department and program level, which would allow academic advisors to foster frequent formal and informal contact with faculty to enable discipline specific advising best practices as opposed to the current centralized model of advising at UCR. The Committee noted feedback from the reviews of undergraduate programs over the years that were supportive of decentralized advising to foster discipline specific expertise. The Chair will summarize the Committee's feedback and recommendations in a memo to the Senate Chair that will be sent to the Committee for review by email.

The Committee welcomed the Associate Provost Ken Baerenklau and Director of Evaluation and Assessment Omar Safie to discuss a proposal to require learning outcomes on course syllabi, which would benefit students. The Committee noted that this request falls under the purview of the Committee on Courses. The Committee discussed the request and while some members supported the requirement others were concerned that adding the requirement could delay the course approval process. The majority of members voted to support the proposal. The Chair will send a memo to the Committee on Courses noting the Committee's support for requiring learning outcomes on course syllabi and the concerns that were noted by members.

The Committee began to review the Committee on Faculty Welfare's Campus Climate Survey and the Chair encouraged members to focus on issues related to undergraduate education as they reviewed the survey. The Committee will continue to discuss the survey at the February 5, 2021 meeting.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:54AM.

Approved: February 5, 2021

Prepared by: Beth Beatty