

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 5, 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; A. Sood; B. Wong; F. Zarinebaf; C. Zhou

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

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

The Chair informed the Committee that Senate is reviewing data from the modifications to the Regulations that were made for remote instruction. Additionally, the Chair informed the Committee that Executive Council is discussing extensions to the modifications for the Spring 21 Quarter and Summer Sessions 21. The Committee discussed possibilities for instruction in the Fall 21 Quarter.

The Committee reviewed and voted to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2021 meeting.

The Committee's representative to the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) Juliann Allison provided the Committee with an update from the February 1, 2021 UCEP meeting. At the meeting UCEP discussed possible replacements to the ACT/SAT exams for admissions requirements. UCEP continued to discuss online degree programs and Professor Allison shared that a potential survey to students to gauge interest in online programs is being considered. UCEP discussed the impact of the climate crisis on undergraduate education. Lastly, Professor Allison informed the Committee that UCEP continued to discuss the ILTI report and that UCEP had drafted a response to the report that representatives were asked to share with their local Committees for feedback. The Committee discussed the ILTI program and Professor Allison welcomed additional feedback by email so that it can be shared with UCEP.

The Chair informed the Committee of the program review schedule for the 2021-2022 academic year. The Committee is scheduled to conduct external reviews of History, Public Policy and the University Writing Program and internal reviews of the Peace and Conflict Studies minor and Southeast Asian Studies minor. Due to a cut in funding for reviews and consideration of COVID-19 contingencies, the external reviews will be conducted remotely on Zoom.

The Committee voted to approve a change to the Procedures for Undergraduate Program Reviews to clarify that review teams will be comprised of at least two external reviewers.

The Chair informed the Committee that the Middle East and Islamic Studies undergraduate program review was closed after a successful Action Implementation Meeting at which the program demonstrated that they have met and/or are actively working to accomplish the findings and recommendations.

The Committee reviewed the Biology undergraduate program's follow up response to the Action Implementation plan from the review of their program. The Committee noted that while the program is taking the recommendations seriously, the effect of COVID-19 on instruction and the budget crisis have made it difficult for the program to address many of the findings and recommendations. The Committee voted to close the review with a request for a follow up report from the program in January 2022 documenting any additional progress they have made on addressing the report's findings and recommendations.

The Committee reviewed and voted to approve the Preliminary Findings and Recommendations report from the internal review of the Labor Studies minor.

The Committee reviewed and voted to approve the Final Findings and Recommendations report from the external review of the Biochemistry undergraduate program.

The Committee reviewed the Committee on Faculty Welfare's Campus Climate Survey and noted concern with the findings. The Committee noted additional climate concerns between faculty and students, which has resulted in an adversarial relationship between faculty and students. The Committee remained concerned with the current campus climate as a result of the impact of remote instruction and recommended that the current climate be evaluated. The Committee noted that through the process of undergraduate program reviews CEP can continue to evaluate for issues of climate and collegiately and make recommendations for undergraduate programs to address concerns that are identified. The Chair will summarize the Committee's feedback and recommendations in a memo to the Senate Chair that will be sent to members for final review by email.

The Committee reviewed proposals from University Extension (UNEX) for Specialized Achievement Awards in General Studies and STEM. The Committee noted concern that some of the Mathematics, Engineering and Science courses required for the awards may not fulfill UCR's general education requirements, which contradicts the statement in the proposals that students can complete general education requirements with the completion of the achievement awards. The Committee voted to return the proposals to UNEX with the recommendation that they be updated to describe the course requirements more accurately in context to UCR's general education requirements.

The Committee welcomed the Director of Evaluation and Assessment Omar Safie for a presentation on the planned assessment of written communication. Director Safie informed the Committee that the plan has been developed in partnership with the University Writing Program (UWP) and that a rubric is being developed to assess the writing of 364 students. The writing samples will be collected from Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) courses. The Committee recommended that the distribution of the sample size of students be equitable from students across the colleges. Director Safie informed the Committee that a team of reviewers including UWP lecturers, UWP faculty, and Senate faculty will conduct the assessments with the goal of completing the review by June 30, 2021 so that a report can be drafted over the summer months. The Committee requested that Director Safie share the rubric with CEP once it is finalized. Members noted concern that a standard rubric will not be able to evaluate all disciplines and Director Safie responded that norming will be used to address this issue. Director Safie concluded

the presentation and noted that the findings of the assessment can result in guidance for changes to the UWP and general education.

The Committee tabled the agenda item to discuss the proposed change to the Minor in Medical and Health Humanities Studies curriculum to the March 5, 2021 meeting agenda.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:20PM.

Approved: February 19, 2021

Prepared by: Beth Beatty