

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
MINUTES
MAY 5, 2023

PRESENT: L. Mangolini, Chair; A. Litt, Vice Chair; E. Schwitzgebel, UCEP Rep.; W. Beyermann; M. Casselman; W. Chen; E. Goodman; P. Gorecki; K. Kinney; M. Lang; S. Lapan; A. Lee; G. Stanley; C. Takeshita; Z. Zhao

GUEST: E. Kozlova, GSA Student Rep.

ABSENT: S. Nguyen, ASUCR Student Rep.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:00AM.

The Committee reviewed the guidance from the University Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction for the use of the chat feature in Zoom during remote and hybrid meetings. The Committee discussed the pros and cons of the use of chat and recommended that next year's Committee decide how it should be used for Committee meetings based on the established modality.

The Committee voted to approve the minutes from the April 7, 2023 meeting.

The Committee reviewed the proposal for a B.A. in Religious Studies/Administrative Studies. Members noted support for the proposal as it will give students a broad education and flexibility for future careers. Other members noted concern that the proposed major's curriculum appeared to be for two different majors and that a career path for students was not clear. The Committee was reminded that CHASS has several other Administrative Studies majors that have existed for some time. Concern was noted that the proposed curriculum for the Religious Studies portion of the major includes less required units than the discipline specific major whereas the other Administrative Studies majors retain the same number of required units as their discipline specific majors. CEP Member Katherine Kinney volunteered to compare the proposed curriculum to the curriculum of approved Administrative Studies majors and report back to the Committee at the June 2, 2023 meeting with their findings. The Committee voted to support this action.

The Committee reviewed the proposed revisions to the R'Courses policy. Some members were in favor of the proposal to allow graduate students to instruct R'Courses as they stated it would provide a good opportunity for professional development. Other members expressed serious concerns about the proposal including the letter of support from the Graduate Student Association (GSA) which was from 2019. The Committee recommended that an updated letter of support be included in the proposal. Another concern was how the inclusion of graduate students could go against the "peer teaching" model at the core of R'Courses offerings since undergraduate students would not perceive graduate student instructors as peers. Members were also concerned about how instructing R'Courses could potentially challenge the balance of graduate students' work, research, and degree progression. Lastly, members raised serious concerns about the apparent conflict between the concept of the instruction of R'Courses without compensation and the recently negotiated union contract. The Chair will draft a memo with the Committee's feedback, which will be sent to the Committee by email for final review.

The Committee reviewed the preliminary findings and recommendations report from the review of the Education undergraduate program review conducted this year. The Committee noted concern with the growth of the major compared to the school's resources. The Committee recommended that a fifth recommendation be added to the report to note that enrollment in the major should be limited until the School of Education's resources are increased to fully support the program. The Committee voted to support the report with the recommended recommendation to the document.

The Committee reviewed a recommendation from an External Review Team to update the Committee's self-study requirements to include demographic data for faculty. The Committee was supportive of this recommendation and will review an update to the Committee's Procedures for Undergraduate Program Reviews to include the requirement at their June 2, 2023 meeting.

Committee representative to the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) Eric Schwitzgebel provide the Committee an update from the most recent meetings of UCEP. Representative Schwitzgebel informed the Committee of a recommendation to guarantee admission for California Community College students within a certain GPA. The Committee recommended that a message be sent to the Committee Undergraduate Admissions regarding their concern of the impact that the guarantee could have at UCR. UCEP discussed the Regents advocacy for remote instruction and how instructional quality can be maintained with online courses. Representative Schwitzgebel noted that Divisions will have the authority to provide guidance for online education at their campus. The Committee discussed WSCUC's guidance that academic programs that include fifty percent or more of their curriculum online are considered online degree programs. Representative Schwitzgebel noted that UC Merced review's programs curriculum to ensure that there is a thirty percent threshold for curriculum that can be taken online.

The Chair asked the Committee if they were supportive of inviting the Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education (VPDUE) to attend the June 2, 2023 meeting. Members were supportive and the VPDUE will be invited to attend the meeting.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:46AM.

Approved: June 2, 2023

Prepared by: Beth Beatty