

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
MINUTES
JUNE 4, 2021

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

ABSENT: E. Goodman (On Leave); A. Sood

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

The Committee reviewed and voted to approve the minutes from the May 7, 2021 meeting.

The Committee's representative to the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) Juliann Allison informed the Committee that UCEP meets next on June 7, 2021 and will discuss academic integrity.

The Committee reviewed the Preliminary Findings and Recommendations Report from the review of the Statistics undergraduate program and recommended that the report be updated to include a statement noting the expected growth of Statistics courses for other majors to justify the advising recommendation. The Committee voted to approve the report with the recommended language.

The Committee reviewed on behalf of their charge of undergraduate education the proposal to transfer the Cell, Molecular, and Developmental (CMDDB) Graduate and Undergraduate Interdepartmental Programs to the CNAS Department of Molecular, Cell and Systems Biology (MCSB) and voted to support the transfer of the undergraduate major. One Committee member who is a member of the MCSB department abstained from the vote. The Chair will report the Committee's support to the Senate Chair.

The Committee reviewed the response from the Director of Evaluation and Assessment to the Committee's feedback to the rubric for writing assessment. The Committee was appreciative of the Director's endorsement of the Committee's recommendations and proposed rubric.

The Committee reviewed the proposal for the University Extension (UNEX) Professional Certification for Early Childhood Education Teacher and recommended that the proposal be updated to define the use of Transitional Kindergarten in the Target Audience/Who Can Benefit Section in effort to provide more insight on what kind of Transitional Kindergarten (preschool vs public school) enrolled students can plan to instruct. The Committee voted to approve the proposal after the recommended change is made.

The Committee reviewed the proposal for the UNEX Professional Certificate in English/Spanish Interpretation and Translation and recommended that the proposal be updated to note the exam that is used to measure the student's proficiency of language. The Committee voted to approve the proposal after the recommended change is made.

The Committee reviewed the proposed remote options for Fall 2021 and emphasized that the choice of teaching modality should be the purview of the instructor and compatible with the format approved for the course. The Committee recommended that the campus not extend remote options beyond the already planned percentage of remote-only classes, but one Committee member expressed concern that the lack of further flexibility may cause a yet unknown number of students to withdraw from UCR. The Committee recommended that further accommodations for students to participate remotely in a course should be initiated by the instructor. Members also recommended that students be notified that they can take advantage of online classes in the UC system with the prior approval of their departments. The Chair will summarize the Committee's recommendations in a response to the Senate Chair.

The Committee discussed an exception request for the 180-unit for graduation requirement that was received by the Committee for review. The Committee noted concern that the student was short for graduation by five units, which is a large number of units in consideration of other requests received. The Committee discussed continued concern with the large amount of exception requests received from CHASS and the potential precedent that will be set for approving the five-unit difference. The Chair reminded the Committee of their inquiry regarding the increased requests and the response that was received by the CHASS Associate Dean for Student Academic Affairs. The Committee recommended that the CHASS Associate Dean for Student Academic Affairs and campus articulation officer be invited to the Committee's next meeting to discuss the issues related to the increased number of requests. The Committee voted to approve the request for the student in question with seven members in support, one member against and two members abstaining.

The Committee reviewed the draft Presidential Campus Safety Plan and recommended that the plan be updated to include options to have the campus police force not carry firearms unless facing comparable weaponry. Members noted concern that the plan does not fully address the safety of students and faculty on campus, especially during the evening hours and recommended that the plan be updated to address this issue. The Chair will summarize the Committee's recommendations in a response to the Senate Chair.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:14PM.

Approved: July 2, 2021

Prepared by: Beth Beatty