CEP Programs and Policy Subcommittee

Throughout the academic year, the Programs and Policy Subcommittee reviewed and prepared matters for the CEP agenda and Consent Calendar relating to the establishment of new minors, changes to existing majors and minors, approval of new courses to fulfill General Education categories, and changes to previously approved General Education courses. The Subcommittee also reviewed and discussed issues surrounding General Education and Policy’s bylaws and procedures.

I. Program Related Actions

115 program related actions were taken, endorsed, and sent forward to the full CEP. Nearly all of the changes to minors, majors, honors and specializations were conforming administrative changes.

- One new undergraduate major was reviewed by the committee but was not recommended for approval.
- One new major was approved (Major in Classics)
- One 4 + 1 program CEP endorsed the proposal to establish a joint M.A. degree program in the Departments of Logic and Philosophy of Science, Philosophy, Economics and Political Science
- Two new minors were approved.
- One new specialization was approved.
- Three new honors programs were approved.
- Eighteen changes were approved to Change of Major requirements
- Fifty-four changes to major degree requirements were approved;
- Eighteen changes to minor requirements were approved;
- Nine changes to Honors requirements were approved;
- Five changes to specialization requirements were approved;
- Two majors were discontinued.

II. Policy Issues Endorsed by the Subcommittee and Forwarded to CEP for Final Approval

A. Changes to CEP Bylaw 85

Policy discussed and endorsed changes to CEP and its subcommittees’ bylaws (Bylaw 85). Changes are effective September, 2012. These bylaw changes were the result of a three year process involving the creation of a new subcommittee of CEP (the Assessment Subcommittee), a review of the recently revised General Education procedures (GE), and a general review of the procedures for CEP and its three major subcommittees: Policy, SCOC, and Assessment. The previous division of labor between Policy and SCOC was inconsistent with regard to evaluation of changes to curriculum based on implementing existing policy versus issues of changes in policy or potential impacts on policy. This resulted in a number of inefficiencies and confusions with procedures. The most relevant issue is routine changes to programs that currently require actions by two subcommittees of CEP: SCOC and Policy. CEP agreed that all course related matters, including routine changes to Programs and General Education review, should be
evaluated by SCOC. This not only streamlines the process, but it provides for more consistent review as the course and program changes can be reviewed as a coherent package. Only new programs and major revisions of programs, which can have policy implications and involve policies beyond course related issues, should be reviewed by Policy.

B. GE Assessment

Each year one or two General Education Categories is assessed by Policy and then reevaluated by CEP. Last year Policy assessed GE V (math). This year Policy assessed GE VII (multi-cultural studies) and VIII (International and Global issues). Policy discussed and decided that the remaining GE VII and GE VIII on upper division courses will be removed by Fall, 2013. Units were informed that GE would be removed from upper division courses unless the department could demonstrate that the GE courses in question are in compliance with the new course level student learning outcomes and general policies governing GE courses, which state that GE must be broad and fundamental in nature and accessible to non majors. CEP then reviewed and approved or denied a number of exception requests to have the GE component remain on the upper division course. The outcome of this review can be found in the CEP 2011-12 annual report.

C. BOARS: Proposal for Major-Based Transfer Admission to the University of California

Policy endorsed the BOARS proposal. Details are available in the CEP 2011-12 Annual Report.

III. Carry Forward Issues

1. Policy will discuss how UCI might handle changes to the way units and credit hours are counted at UCI. WASC may ask that UC campuses account for student work load using a three unit instead of a four unit system.

2. Policy will continue to discuss the impact of online education on the undergraduate curriculum. Online and hybrid courses are now available to UCI and non UCI students through UCI, UCI extension, and UC Online Education.

3. Policy will continue to discuss the impact of UCI’s efforts to increase revenues and some of the unintended consequences of these actions on faculty and students. For example, international students from the UCI Extension program are impacting the education of UCI degree seeking students in regular UCI courses. A number of complaints have been registered through Policy concerning the difficulty international students have keeping up with course lectures and understanding course content.

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