

SUBCOMMITTEE ON POLICY AND ASSESSMENT 2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT

SUBCOMMITTEE OPERATIONS

The Subcommittee on Policy and Assessment (SCPA) is charged with reviewing proposals for new undergraduate requirements, policy issues, proposals for new or revised Change of Major criteria, and developing and maintaining guidelines and procedures for periodic assessment. SCPA recommendations are submitted to the Council on Educational Policy for action. The Subcommittee's full duties are outlined in [Irvine Bylaw 85.C.1](#). Associate Professor Amanda Holton, Chemistry, chaired the Subcommittee in 2020-21. The Subcommittee met seven times during the academic year.

SUBCOMMITTEE ISSUES

- The Subcommittee members examined final examination requirements and they appeared to be outdated and were not fitting the needs of many classes. The proposed revisions clarified issues around synchronous finals and accommodate lab classes. The proposed revisions also eliminated the requirement that department chairs approve the assignment of final papers in place of final exams. The proposed revisions to IR A465 were sent to CEP for consideration and then sent to the Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction. (November 19, 2020)
- The Academic Senate made P/NP grading options more flexible for spring, summer, and fall 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Chair Holton proposed that the Subcommittee consider whether aspects of these flexible rules should be made permanent, and whether P/NP selection should be permitted post grade determination. The Subcommittee discussed whether aspects of these flexible rules should be made permanent, including whether P/NP selection should be permitted post grade determination. (November 19, 2020)
- The Campus Assessment Director, Venette Van Duyn, briefed the Subcommittee with background information on how the campus has approached General Education assessment in recent years. The Subcommittee discussed challenges of the current survey model, including low response rates, and suggested that CEP consider alternatives. (November 19, 2020)
- Chair Holton proposed that the Subcommittee consider a proposal to create an optional faculty teaching reflection form. The form would invite faculty to reflect on their recent teaching at the conclusion of each quarter, respond to student course feedback, comment on any new pedagogical techniques or tools used, and whether they were successful or not. At the recommendation of the Subcommittee, an official form was developed with collaboration from Vice Provost Dennin's office. (January 21, 2021)
- The Subcommittee discussed different forms of norm-referenced grading, including ranked grading, bell curve grading, "colloquially discussed curve" grading, straight scale grading, and shifted scale grading, in addition to grade norming. Members discussed various grading practices across campus. Members concluded that next steps should include engaging faculty colleagues in discussion about grading practices, perhaps at faculty meetings. The Subcommittee determined that education and sharing best practices, rather than setting formal policy, was the best course of action. (January 21, 2021)

- The existing UCI grading option policy allowed students to modify their grading option at their discretion through the end of week 2 of the quarter and students may request a change of grading option via an enrollment exception process through the end of week 6. The Subcommittee discussed the possibility of extending the deadline to a later date in the quarter on a permanent basis and eventually settled on a recommendation. The Subcommittee recommended to CEP that, beginning with spring 2021, the grading option selection deadline for undergraduates be moved to 5:00p.m. on Friday of 10th week. The Subcommittee is not suggesting any changes to the current limitations on which courses may be taken Pass/Not Pass at this time. The Subcommittee consulted with Deputy Registrar Paul Lampano and Executive Director of Advising Heather Cartagena on the proposed change to the deadline. (February 18, 2021)
- The Campus Assessment Director Venette Van Duyn provided background information on GE assessment and information on specific strategies to assess GE data. Given the timing of the academic year, Subcommittee members thought it was appropriate to assess the current dataset. For WASC, SCPA was asked to comment on several key aspects of GE IV Arts and Humanities, GE II Science and Technology, and GE III Social and Behavioral Sciences; the goal was to provide faculty assessment on comments in the GE Review Document. After the assessment was completed, Director Van Duyn generated an executive summary for WASC, which will also eventually be distributed with best practices and other educational materials to GE faculty. (April and May 2021)

MEMBERSHIP

Voting Members

Amanda Holton, Chair, Physical Sciences
 Manoj Kaplinghat, Physical Sciences
 Christine King, Engineering
 Ian Munro, Arts
 Juliette Carrillo, Arts
 Hu Ying, Humanities
 Jennifer Wong-Ma, Information and Computer Sciences

Ex Officio Members

Elizabeth Bennett, University Registrar
 Michael Dennin, Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning & Dean, Division of Undergraduate Education
 Daniel Gross, Campus Writing Coordinator
 Venette Van Duyn, Campus Assessment Coordinator

Consultants

Tracy Molidor, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Planning
 Brad Queen, Director, Composition
 Aliya Thomas, University Editor
 Sautra Yazdanian, Project Director; Academic Planning

Annual Report Prepared By: Malcolm Bourne, CEP Analyst