SUBCOMMITTEE ON POLICY AND ASSESSMENT
2021-22 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 (CEP) for action. The Subcommittee's full duties are outlined in Irvine Bylaw 85.C.1. Associate Professor Amanda Holton, Chemistry, chaired the Subcommittee in 2021-22. The Subcommittee met nine times during the academic year.

SUBCOMMITTEE ISSUES

- As part of an information gathering process for possible grade policy reforms, the Subcommittee hosted MIT Vice Chancellor Ian Waitz and Project Coordinator Kate Weishaar to present MIT grading policy information. They discussed the unique way MIT handles first-year grades as well as the development process. Highlights from the presentation included a grading ramp with credit limits that proved valuable for easing the transition to MIT and several flexible grading options, which reduced student stress and encouraged academic exploration. (November 18, 2021)
- In December 2021, the Subcommittee was asked to draft a policy defining online, hybrid, and on-campus courses. Chair Holton led the development of a draft policy and presented it to members at the January 2022 meeting. The draft policy proposal included definitions for hybrid and online courses as well as a detailed set of approval requirements. Multiple members commented that it was important to use language and terminology already in use, such as hybrid and online. Chair Holton also noted the importance of defining hybrid and online, which will help to clarify the differences to faculty. Following the January 2022 meeting, the draft policy was presented to SCOC for comments and feedback. At the February CEP meeting, the draft policy was reviewed and included SCOC comments and feedback. CEP members were then asked to provide comments and feedback in advance of the February SCPA meeting. Concerns were expressed regarding the percentage of a course that could be potentially offered online without Senate approval. After an extended comment period following the February SCPA meeting, the draft hybrid and online learning policy was presented at the subsequent CEP meeting and approved. (January 2022, February 2022)
- The current Passed/Not Passed Policy, which requires students to decide on the grade basis before they know their grade, is biased to students who best understand the college system and may disadvantage students who are unable to navigate complex grading schemes. The Subcommittee approved a policy revision proposal and Chair Holton noted the policy revision ensures that students have equal access to information when determining how to best use their P/NP allotment, regardless of professor policy. (January 20, 2022)
- The Subcommittee reviewed and provided feedback for a selection of Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Reports, which would eventually be submitted as examples to WASC. Social Ecology was the first assessment report to be reviewed, and the Director of

the Center for Assessment and Applied Research (CAAR) & Campus Assessment Coordinator, Venette Van Duyn, noted that an ample amount of feedback had been collected. (February 17, 2022)

- The Subcommittee voted to recommend that an amendment be added to the established course repetition conditions in Irvine Regulation A345.D. The current regulation does not include any information related to honors or majors-only courses. In consultation with the Registrar, SCPA recommended that an amendment was necessary and will allow for honors and majors courses to be replaced by non-honors and non-majors courses, if needed. (April 21, 2022)
- In January 2022, the Subcommittee voted to recommend that the undergraduate grading basis deadline be permanently changed from Friday of week 10 to the first day of the following quarter. Chair Holton informed the Subcommittee that the issue had not yet made it to CEP for a vote. Vice Provost Dennin informed the Subcommittee that multiple UC campuses were actively discussing grading basis deadline revisions and would inform the group of any pertinent developments. It was noted that a multi-campus approach would help build momentum and that revising the grading basis deadline would help students. Chair Holton highlighted that SCPA would continue to discuss the issue, even though the current academic year is coming to an end. Several members noted that revising the grading basis deadline will be a priority for the upcoming academic year. (April 21, 2022)
- Director of CAAR & Campus Assessment Coordinator Van Duyn provided an update to the Subcommittee and noted that assessment activities for 2021-22 have been completed. Looking forward, Director Van Duyn highlighted that Physical Sciences and ICS will assess their undergraduate majors in the 2022-23 academic year, the WASC visit has been moved to February 2023, and the campus Self-Study is due to WASC in December 2022. (June 2022)

MEMBERSHIP

Voting Members
Amanda Holton, Chair, Physical Sciences
Amal Alachkar, Health Sciences
Long Bui, Social Sciences
George Farkas, Education
Manoj Kaplinghat, Physical Sciences
Christine King, Engineering
Zhiqin Lu, Physical Sciences
Ian Munro, Arts
Jose Antonio Rodriguez Lopez, Social 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, Director of CAAR & Campus Assessment Coordinator

Representatives
Cindy Duong, ASUCI

Consultants
Paul Kang, 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