

California State University, Stanislaus  
**University Educational Policies Committee**  
**March 29, 2001**

Present: B. Betts, D. Demetrulias, J. Elliott, A. Petrosky, S. Phillips, K. Potts, A. Reith, K. Stone, and M. Thompson  
Excused: J. Jewell  
Guests: L. Bunney-Sarhad, K. Entin, S. Filling, J. Klein, I. Littlewood, and J. Tuedio

- I. **Call to Order.** M. Thompson called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.
- II. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved as distributed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of March 8 were approved as distributed.
- IV. **Announcements/Reports.** The committee thanked the AVPAA for providing refreshments for this long working meeting.
- V. **Old Business**
  - A. **120 Units to Baccalaureate Degree.** M. Thompson distributed to the UEPC a draft document titled "Process and Criteria for Justification of Units Beyond 120 for Graduation." The committee discussed the document and made modifications. M. Thompson will update the document and forward to SEC.
  - B. **Resolution Concerning Students in ITV Courses.** Deferred.
  - C. **Program Revision: Major in Sociology.** In a communication dated March 27, 2001, from P. O'Brien to M. Thompson, the request was made to withdraw the program revision for the Major in Sociology. The UEPC's questions and concerns regarding the proposed change in units in the major were beneficial as a catalyst for programmatic discussions within the department.
  - D. **Draft: Principles of Academic Assessment.** The *ad hoc* Assessment Advisory Committee adopted this document. Since the composition of the Assessment of Student Learning (ASL) subcommittee will differ from the *ad hoc* committee (e.g. student representation), the document will be referred to ASL as soon as it is formed with the request that they review the principles and report back to the UEPC.
  - E. **WP and WPST Issues.** S. Filling, I. Littlewood, and J. Tuedio were invited to the meeting to take part in the discussion of several issues regarding Writing Proficiency courses and the Writing Proficiency Screening Test.

*GE/WP Courses.* Does the WP requirement conflict with the requirement for the GE program? Can a course that satisfies the writing proficiency criteria also satisfy the general education criteria? The UWC's perspective is that WP is writing within the discipline. The ethos of the program is discipline-specific. Discussion ensued regarding discipline-specific writing. Do we allow courses to count for GE and WP? Following discussion the UEPC agreed that GE and WP courses may not count for both general education and WP.

*Cross-listing WP Courses.* The discussion of cross-listing WP courses came about as a result of a course in the Art Department requesting cross-listing with a WP course. J. Klein explained that the Art Department submitted their Subject Matter Preparation Program to the CCTC. One of the criticisms of the CCTC was there was not enough aesthetics in the

curriculum. Since there already existed a course on campus containing aesthetics, the Art Department decided to request cross-listing with that course. Following discussion, the UEPC agreed that cross-listed courses—one course a WP course and the other course not a WP course—is not allowable and that two WP courses may not be cross-listed unless specifically approved by the UWC.

*A Modest Proposal.* S. Filling stated that the VanderMolen proposal suggests that there be a 1-unit writing course, that it be graded separately, that the course meet GWAR by requiring students to write 26 pages correct grammatically, and that we abolish the WPST. The UWC agrees that WP courses are usually more labor-intensive than non-WP courses and endorses the notion that these courses be awarded an additional unit of credit based on the fact that the courses are writing intensive. The UWC has qualms about specifying the length of a paper—quantity doesn't ensure quality. The UWC, based on its own deliberations and upon multiple surveys of faculty, disagrees that the WPST should be abolished. The WPST does indeed serve as a screening test. The UWC requests UEPC's assistance in enforcing both parts of the GWAR (WPST plus a WP course). The UEPC will discuss the UWC's response to The Modest Proposal at the next scheduled meeting.

*University Catalog Changes for WP Courses.* The UEPC agreed to the minor modifications in the catalog as stated in the March 1, 2001, memo from S. Filling to the UEPC. Also, the UEPC agreed that the following prerequisite should be added to the course description of all WP courses: "Completion of the Writing Proficiency Screening Test with a passing score."

All requests for modification of WP courses should be reviewed by the UWC.

F. **Resolution on Review of Interdisciplinary Program Minors.** Deferred.

## VI. **New Business.**

A. **Remediation Plan.** Deferred.

B. **Academic Calendars: 2002/03.** Deferred.

C. **UEPC Task Force on Globalization Proposal.** L. Bunney-Sarhad was invited to the meeting to provide an update on the globalization proposal that was previously written in response to an edict from the Chancellor's Office. She requested guidance from the UEPC as to whether the established goals are appropriately set. She also requested that the UEPC provide direction to her, since the UEPC is the body to state whether programs should evaluate themselves in terms of the global element. This item will remain on the agenda for future discussion in terms of providing a response to L. Bunney-Sarhad.

D. **New Degree Major: BA in Agricultural Studies.** K. Entin reported that five years ago members of the agricultural community came to the campus requesting a major in agricultural studies. As the major developed, there were underlying principles agreed upon by all who participated. A program has been designed that meets particular unmet educational needs in this area and that give expression of a number of departments on campus. The Agricultural Studies major is based on the underlying assumption that the University can deliver the major through a partnership with community colleges in the northern San Joaquin Valley. The "2+2" program design will enable students to complete the baccalaureate education after securing an agricultural related degree from Modesto Junior College, Merced College, or San Joaquin Delta College.

The Agricultural Studies major will be offered through the College of Arts, Letters, and Sciences. The departments participating in the major include Biological Sciences,

Economics, Geography, and Politics and Public Administration. Other departments will participate as the program develops.

Prior to and during the design of the major, surveys, focus groups, interactive presentations, and on-going conversations with community college faculty and the agricultural community served as a gauge of interest in, and demand for, the proposed agricultural studies major. K. Entin shared that the enthusiasm and the collaborative nature of individuals has been overwhelming.

The UEPC expressed concern about library holdings for this program—there is virtually nothing in the library now. K. Entin responded that funds will be raised up front for the library. In the beginning the program will rely on interlibrary loan. There also is the possibility of sharing library resources with Modesto Junior College.

The Permaculture concentration in the Agricultural Studies major is in addition to the already-approved Permaculture minor.

D. Demetrulias suggested forwarding the proposal to three individuals to review prior to sending the proposal to the Chancellor's Office. This allows the campus to address any weaknesses or improvements to the proposal prior to being forwarded to the Chancellor's Office. K. Entin will follow-up with D. Demetrulias.

The second reading of the proposal for the Agricultural Studies major will take place during the April 26 UEPC meeting.

- E. **Staff Support for Governance Committees.** Following discussion, the UEPC agreed that M. Thompson would draft a memorandum to send to the committee via email for approval. Following approval, M. Thompson will take the memorandum to the SEC meeting on April 3.
- F. **Proposal for Fee Waivers for Graduate Students Carrying Teaching Responsibilities.** Deferred.

VII. **Subcommittee Reports.** Minutes were received from the Graduate Council (2/15/01), the General Education Subcommittee (12/4/01 and 2/23/01), the Off-Campus/Distance Learning Subcommittee (2/27/01), and the University Writing Committee (2/15/01 and 3/1/01).

VIII. **Other.** None.

IX. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne Elliott  
Recording Secretary

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