UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA **ACADEMIC SENATE • Merced Division**

Undergraduate Council (UGC)
Minutes of Meeting
March 3, 2010

I. MEETING

Pursuant to call, the Undergraduate Council met at 10:00 am on Wednesday, March 3, 2010, in Room 232 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Susan Amussen presiding.

II. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Amussen welcomed and introduced Academic Senate Executive Director Susan Sims. Director Sims' duties will include the facilitation and coordination of program reviews.

2/25/10 Meeting with OP Officials-CAPRA will meet the EVC tomorrow to discuss visit follow-ups.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR

Agenda approved as presented
February 24 Minutes approved pending minor edits from Professor Camfield.

IV. GOULD COMMISSION REPORT

VCSA Lawrence – Education and Curriculum Working Group

The working groups have submitted their preliminary recommendations to the co-chairs.
The Education and Curriculum working group has submitted four recommendations:

1. Manage educational resources more effectively and efficiently to (1) increase the proportion of students graduating in four years, (2) create a pathway for students to complete degrees in three years, (3) make more effective use of faculty resources, and (4) maintain or improve the undergraduate student experience.
2. Continue timely exploration of online instruction in the undergraduate curriculum, as well as in self-supporting graduate degrees and Extension programs. (several reports on online education have already been issued by the Senate).
3. Expand use of self-supporting and part-time programs to expand opportunities for a UC education to existing and potential students, working professionals, and underserved communities.
4. Develop a system wide academic planning framework that incorporates campus goals within the context of priorities identified for the University as a whole.

Another recommendation on UC Quality will come forth.

The above noted recommendations will be presented at the Regents meeting next week.

IV. REPORT FROM UCEP MARCH 1 MEETING – Professor Camfield

UCEP met via teleconference.

- Differential fees proposals. UCEP is opposed to differential fees by programs or majors at the undergraduate level.

- UCB's position regarding retention of out-of-state student fees.

V. PROGRAM REVIEW

The report from Applied Mathematics is due to be submitted by March 15.
Professors Vanderschraaf and Chen are working on the students and faculty surveys. Drafts will be circulated within UGC for input before they go to the Schools.

VI. REPORT FROM THE CRF SUBCOMMITTEE

The CRF subcommittee reviewed 13 NS courses and 45 SSHA courses.
UGC's recommendations are attached to the minutes (page 5).

VII. CATALOG CHANGES

Natural Sciences

Catalog changes requested by NS:

1- Page 75: "All courses required for completion of a major (or minor) in Natural Sciences must be passed with a grade of C- or better, not to include general education courses taken outside of Natural Sciences and Engineering. **Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA in all major coursework**."

UGC would like to discuss this further at its March 10 meeting.

2- MATH 11 needs to be added as an option in the Preparatory Curricula section where it currently lists MATH 21 only. (Math 21 approved at today's meeting).

UGC recommends approval.

3- Applied Math Major: MATH 125, Intermediate Differential Equations needs to replace MATH 121 in the Math major requirements and in all sample plans. Math 121 is being discontinued. (Math 125 and 121 were approved today).

UGC recommends approval.

4- Page 82: Math 12-Calculus II needs to replace Math 30 in the Biology Major Requirements and in the Biology sample plans. (Math 12 was approved at today's meeting).

UGC recommends approval.

5- Changes to the ESS major requirements:
-Delete ESS 70 as a lower division requirement

UGC recommends the use of "co-convened" instead of "conjoined".

-Change lower division requirement to one lower division ESS (e.g., ESS 1, ESS 10, ESS 34, ESS 50) course and two other lower division Science and Engineering courses (e.g., ESS 1, ESS 10, ESS 34, ESS 50, BIO 1, BIO 34, BIO 43, BIO 46, ENVE 10, ENVE 20).

-Add ECON 120 as an option for the ECON requirement and to list of electives.

UGC recommends approval.

6- New Minor in Environmental Science and Sustainability – UGC is concerned about the minor's Program Learning Outcomes specifically:

Graduates with a minor in Environmental Science and Sustainability will be able to:

1. *Understand* major concepts and principles in Environmental Science and Sustainability, including the interdependence of elements of the Earth system, the carrying capacity of natural systems, and the role of policy and economics in both perpetuating and solving environmental problems.

UGC comment: In terms of assessment of a program, the use of the verb "understand" is too weak. What is meant by "understanding?"

2. Develop upper division *expertise* in three to four central areas of Environmental Science and Sustainability – Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Environmental Biology, Society and Environment, and Research, Communication, and Design Skills.

UGC comment: Expertise implies a very high level of knowledge and measuring expertise is very subtle.

3. Apply and analyze appropriate solutions to a variety of environmental problems

4. Select appropriate measurement tolls and gather environmental data using common instrumentation

5. Effectively analyze environmental data and communicate environmental science issues to a wider community of stakeholders.

UGC recommendation: PLOs 3, 4, and 5 would emerge from taking the courses and would be examples of upper division expertise. They would also demonstrate understanding major concepts. If these could be clarified, it would alleviate the faculty workload when the time for assessment comes.

Action: The School of Natural Sciences will amend its program learning outcomes as recommended.

NSED Catalog Changes

UGC encourages NSED to edit their learning outcomes as follows.

- Remove "comprehensively" (first learning outcome)
- Add some language about student reflection on the appropriateness of teaching as a future profession.

Physics Major Catalog Changes

Comments:

- The Physics major is a good model for program learning outcomes. There is a clear parallel in the structure and a clear differentiation among those learning outcomes. These can be measured in a very efficient manner.

- Biophysics emphasis track: UGC recommends the addition of BIO 101 and BIO 161 (biochemistry).

Applied Math Catalog Changes
Math 125 replaces former Math 121.
Math 126 replaces Math 142 in the curriculum. Math 142 will remain in the catalog as an upper division elective course but anywhere Math 142 was formerly a requirement, Math 126 will be the requirement beginning in Fall 2010.
Addition of the following language prohibiting enrollment in lower level courses after the completion of more advanced courses:

> No credit is allowed for completing a less advanced course after successful completion (C- or better) of an equally or more advanced course in Applied Mathematics.
> In the Calculus sequence, the order of courses is 5, 11, 21, 12, 22, 23, with Math 24 on par with Math 23. In the probability and statistics sequence, the order is 18, 32.

Math 11 and 12 to replace Math 21 and 22 in the Biology catalog and sample plans.

Math 11 and 12 to be included in the ESS catalog as options along with Math 21 and 22

In an effort to avoid confusion, UGC recommends the removal of "Mechanics" in the "Additional requirements for Engineering Mechanics Emphasis Track" as this is not a mechanical engineering emphasis.
The AMS Catalog changes will be discussed further at the March 10 meeting.

The SSHA Catalog changes will be discussed on March 10.

VIII. UGC MEMOS RE: TUTORING AND RE: FINAL EXAMS

UGC members will review the two draft memos and send their comments to Chair Amussen.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Attest:

Susan Amussen, Chair

Minutes prepared by:
Fatima Paul.