MINUTES OF THE UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE

September 29, 2014

PRESENT: Chair Robert Gorsch, Vice Chair Kathy Porter, Steve Bachofer, Elena Escalera, Molly Metherd, Steve Miller, Chris Ray, and Elise Wong. Jose Feito arrived at 4:00 pm

ABSENT: Sue Fallis (with notice) and Sam Lind (with notice)

Also present: Jim Sauerberg, Chair of the CCC, Jennifer Heung, and Chair of the Social, Historical, Cultural Understanding Working Group of the CCC

The meeting began at approximately 3:36 pm.

The minutes from May 5, 2014 meeting were approved by a vote of 4 AYE, 0 NAY, and 4 ABSTAIN. Only 4 of the current members were members of the board in May.

The minutes from the August 26, 2014 meeting were approved with a vote of 7 AYE, 0 NO, and 1 ABSTAIN.

The minutes of the September 15, 2014 meeting were approved with a vote of 8 AYE, 0 NO, and 0 ABSTAIN...

Jim Sauerberg, Chair of the CCC (Core Curriculum Committee) explained the Ranked Faculty in January Term and Collegiate Seminar proposal sent to this committee by Sue Fallis, Director of January Term, Jose Feito, Director of Collegiate Seminar, and himself. The memo indicated their concern on the low participation of ranked faculty in the two programs (JY & CS). In Jan Term 2014 about 44% of the courses were taught by ranked faculty and in fall 2013 only 42% of the Collegiate Seminar courses were taught by ranked faculty. Overall approximately 55% of all undergraduate courses at SMC are taught by ranked faculty at this time. Problems due to large adjunct/part time faculty in these two programs were discussed. There was a consensus that the main reason for the high participation of non-ranked faculty in JT & CS is the insufficient numbers of ranked faculty in many departments and academic programs. These understaffed programs cannot afford to send more ranked faculty to JT and CS. The committee voted to endorse the following resolution written by Sauerberg, Feito, and Fallis: “The proportion of ranked faculty teaching in January Term and Collegiate Seminar should be broadly representative of this proportion across the undergraduate college.” The vote on the endorsement was 8 AYE, 0 NAY, and 1 ABSTAIN. There was also a recommendation that an actual number (per cent) should be given in the resolution.

Next up for discussion was the SMC Core Curriculum Designation Renewal Proposal Draft of September 9th 2014. Jim Sauerberg explained the history of core approval designation. Many questions were asked and differing opinions were given during this discussion. One of the purposes that the renewal process would serve is quality control, i.e., has a course drifted away from its learning objectives? Jennifer Heung, the chair of the Social, Historical, Cultural Understanding Working Group (SHCU) of the CCC indicated that during her
Group's recent assessment of the learning objectives of SHCU indicated that more than a few courses were not serving the learning objectives that were presented to the committee during the original approval process. Many members of the UEPC expressed, during the discussion, that the renewal process described on the proposal needed to be streamlined and that what was proposed seemed costly in faculty hours. The committee voted on the proposal with the period of renewal changed from 4 to 6 years. The vote was 4 AYE, 5 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN. Jim Sauerberg asked for more guidance from the committee. Chair Gorsch summarized some of the discussion with an emphasis that the CCC should streamline the process. There was a request from several members of the UEPC to table the conversation and return to it at the next meeting.

The last topic for the day was the 5-Year Calendar sent to the committee by Vice Provost Carp. After a short discussion the committee voted on accepting the calendar with all years having the regular schedule except for 2019-2020 where the alternate calendar would be used. The vote was 9 AYE, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN.

There was also a vote on the recommendation of instituting a Reading Day on Monday of Finals Week in the Fall semester each year. The vote was approval with 7 AYE, 2 NAY, and 0 ABSTAIN.

Next meeting is October 20th in Founder's at 3:30

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Vice Chair Porter