To the Faculty Legislature, Santa Barbara Division

The charge of the College of Letters and Science Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) is defined in Part III, Appendix II, D1.93A of the Santa Barbara Division’s Bylaws and Regulations as follows: “Each FEC of the Faculty of a College, often abbreviated as ‘FEC of the College,’ is a committee of the Academic Senate. These Committees are authorized by the Bylaws of each Division of the Academic Senate as organizations through which the Faculty of each College can coordinate the academic affairs of their College.”

Professor Paige Digeser was elected FEC Chair at the meeting on 5 October 2017, and she offers this Annual Report for academic year 2017-18.

Executive Summary

The FEC is tasked with the academic oversight of 93% of the undergraduate population on campus and a corresponding 92% of the regular undergraduate courses, 83% of the academic departments, and 90% of the campus’s degree programs. Much of what was accomplished in 2017-18 involved what could be considered the day-to-day business of the College: reviewing systemwide policies, participating in programmatic reviews, overseeing major adjustments to the curriculum, approving majors and minors, and selecting award recipients. In performing these tasks it is clear that the College is healthy, vibrant and under continual renewal. However, in performing these tasks, it also is clear that the College faces a number of longstanding challenges: Our undergraduate numbers continue to rise while the number of graduate students remains stagnant; Questions of climate continue to impede the educational experiences of too many students; Some departments within the college are overwhelmed with majors while other departments are trying to attract majors as best they can; The physical infrastructure for some departments is not satisfactory; The challenges faced by transfer students need to be carefully monitored. None of these is a surprise. None of them has an easy answer. All of them affect the welfare of the L&S faculty, students and staff.

The FEC benefited greatly from the participation and insights of its ex-officio members, Executive Dean Pierre Wiltzius and AVC and Dean of Undergraduate Education Jeff Stopple. I also want to acknowledge the contributions of GSA representative Mary Okin from History of Art and Architecture and Associated Students Representative Brooke Kopel. Both of these students are dedicated to the welfare of the College and to UCSB as a whole. Both provided invaluable advice and input to the committee and served their constituencies well. The FEC is also indebted to the experience and wisdom of Barbara Gilkes, without whose guidance not much would happen. Finally, in addition to myself, two other
members will be stepping off the committee: Sherene Seikaly and Barry Giesbrecht. Thank you for your service. It was a pleasure to work with you all.

**Systemwide Policy and Regulation Review**

As with other Senate committees, the FEC is offered the opportunity to review and comment on systemwide policy revisions. Because these revisions nearly always involve the well-being of departments, faculty, and students in L&S, the committee usually provides a response. Among the policy changes the FEC considered in 2017-18:

- A second Systemwide Review of Revisions to APM sections concerning Lecturers with Security of Employment (LSOEs) and series titles (APM 285, 210-3, 133, 740, 135, 235). The FEC was concerned that there be clarity in the review criteria for these Senate colleagues;
- A taskforce report on the Negotiated Salary Trial Program. The FEC found no basis for continuation let alone expansion of the trial program;
- A consideration of whether and how the Presidential Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment would change Divisional Senate procedures (SR 424.A.3) for handling charges of sexual violence or harassment brought against Senate and Non-Senate Faculty. While the FEC found benefit in the stricter timeline and the regulation of updates to both complainants and respondents, the committee had serious reservations about the reduced role the proposed procedures would assign to the Senate;
- Additions to Systemwide and Divisional Senate Bylaws to address potential conflict of interest among standing committee members. The FEC provided its endorsement;
- A proposal from BOARS to change Area "d" (lab science) requirement for UC freshman admission to be in alignment with new State science standards, which the FEC endorsed;
- A proposed Presidential Policy on Open Access for Theses and Dissertations intended to mirror open access policies already developed for faculty and staff publications. While agreeing in principle, the FEC was concerned that the process did not adequately consider consequences for larger collaborative research environments.

**Academic Program Reviews**

Maintaining excellence in College departments, undergraduate programs, and graduate education is essential for the continued excellence of the University. As such, the FEC takes its role in Academic Program Review very seriously. In 2017-18 the committee provided extensive comment during the reviews of the Departments of English, Global Studies, and Physics. The FEC also commented on the Review of the Education Department and the Teacher Education Program within the Graduate School of Education, since those programs offer minors to L&S undergraduates.

As the other reviewing agencies, the FEC was troubled by climate issues reported primarily at the graduate student level. It fully supports the PRP Chair in stating, “Despite the University’s attempts to train and enlighten its faculty and staff, sexual harassment remains a persistent issue. Additional steps need to be taken to improve the climate for women at UCSB.”
FEC also provided comment on academic units that should undergo program review next and nominated candidates for the Program Review Panel.

**Curriculum Adjustments**

The College of Letters and Science offers 75 unique undergraduate majors and 46 minor academic programs. The majors include an additional 45 Emphases, which require their own major sheet/study list. Foundational courses for the remaining undergraduate majors on campus are also offered through L&S.

Given this volume and significance, curriculum adjustments occupy a considerable amount of the committee’s attention every year, comprising the bulk of FEC workload in the winter quarter. In 2017-18 the FEC reviewed 19 proposed significant curriculum changes (significant meaning they impact the major or minor program), including four proposed new minors and one proposed new Pre-Major. The FEC sub-committees endorsed lesser changes submitted by 28 academic units (lesser, or housekeeping changes, include such things as removing discontinued courses, updating to new course numbers, correcting typos). L&S Departments and programs are encouraged to actively monitor their curricula and courses and to propose updates as needed on an annual cycle.

The significant curriculum proposals submitted to the FEC in 2017-18 were:

*Changes to Existing Majors and Minors – (Fully approved by the FEC and Undergraduate Council):*

1. Anthropology Department – Changes to all 4 Anthropology Major Emphases
2. Art Department – Changes to all 3 Art Minors
3. Black Studies Department – Changes to Black Studies Major and Minor
4. Chicana/o Studies Department – Changes to Chicana/o Studies Major
5. EALCS Department – Changes to Japanese High Proficiency Major
6. EEMB-MCDB Departments – Changing the lower division Bio lab sequence from 3 quarters to two; impacted Biology Pre-Major and all ten biology majors. *—FEC found this to be an innovative pedagogical approach that would improve the educational offering while simultaneously accommodating the increasing number of Bio and STEM majors despite limited campus lab space.*
7. English Department – Changes to English Major
8. History Department – Changes to History Major
9. Mathematics Department – Changes to Mathematics BA Major & Teaching for Math Minor
10. MCDB – Changes to Pharmacology Major
11. Spanish & Portuguese Department – Changes to Spanish Major and Spanish Minor
   *Note that the Department initially also proposed the establishment of two new emphases, but those were eliminated and consolidated into tracks within the existing major.*

*Proposed New Minors*

12. History of Art & Architecture Department - New Minor in Museum Studies (endorsed by FEC and approved by UG Council)
13. History of Art & Architecture Department – New Minor in Architecture and Urban History (endorsed by FEC and still under review by UG Council)
14. History Department – New Minor in Poverty, Inequality, and Social Justice (endorsed by FEC and still under review by UG Council)

Proposed New Pre-Major
15. Film and Media Studies Department – New Film and Media Studies Pre-Major (endorsed by FEC and still under review by UG Council)

The following remain under consideration by FEC
16. Feminist Studies Department – Request to allow pursuit of major and minor within the Department
17. Religious Studies Department – Request to allow pursuit of major and minor within the Department
18. MCDB Department – Changes to Biochemistry, Molecular Bio Major (pending revisions from host department)
19. English Department – New Minor in Environmental Humanities with 3 Tracks (pending revisions from host department)

Other Academic Items Addressed
In addition, the committee approved three Majors proposed by individual undergraduates, endorsed revisions to the Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) for Psychological and Brain Sciences undergraduate degrees, and considered a request by the local EAP office for Pre-Approval of UCEAP Courses to meet General Education Requirements. The FEC ruled on one undergraduate grade appeal and provided comment on the re-opening of Graduate Admission to Chicana/o Studies.

Because of their potential effect on our college, the L&S FEC was invited to comment on a second round proposal to establish a BA in Marine Science within the College of Creative Studies, new modifications to the College of Engineering General Education Requirements, and a proposed MA in Environmental Data Science.

The FEC also spent some time considering appropriate oversight mechanisms for interdisciplinary majors and minors. The increase in such academic programs adds complexity to the FEC longstanding rule against students completing majors/minors housed in the same administrative unit (with established exceptions). During 2017-18 the FEC sought to develop guidelines for when a student may pursue a major and minor (or two majors) within the same academic unit and encouraged departments that house interdisciplinary majors and minors to review and update their course offerings and lists of participating faculty on a regular basis.

The FEC commented on local policies and procedures relating to academic issues, including: revision of the UCSB calculation of Honors at Graduation (SR 240), to provide more equitable opportunity for transfer students to earn Honors; revision of Divisional Senate Regulation 80 dealing with the Subject A entry level writing requirement; management review of a proposal to change eligibility requirements for teaching assistants; and approval of a classroom recording policy. The committee proposed changes to the grade appeal regulation (Divisional Senate Regulation 25), intended both to bring the regulation into alignment with a revised Policy 4105 (student grievance procedure) and to clarify the roles of the agents named in the regulation.
Course Adjustments
During the reporting year approximately 700 L&S courses were processed through the MCA. Over 20% of those were new courses. (Cf. roughly 55 COE courses went through the MCA, 3 CCS courses, and 3 GGSE UG courses.)

Online Courses
The FEC received nine requests for online courses: five were for new courses and four were petitions for renewed approval. The FEC chair reviewed an additional course and determined that it did not meet the campus threshold as an online course. The FEC endorsed eight of the nine course proposals. Notably, with one exception, all of these courses are designed for summer session offerings, and, with the same exception, all have pre-existing face-to-face courses. The exception was also the course that did not meet conditions for FEC endorsement.

Under current campus procedures, online courses are initially approved for a 2-year period, after which they are submitted for re-approval based on documented improvements and evidence of student performance and satisfaction. After six years of engaging in the renewal process, the FEC decided to streamline it by delegating the renewals to the FEC Chair, unless he or she decides that a particular case requires full committee review. It was our experience that online courses submitted for re-approval are improved over the course of the initial period and are usually of sufficient academic quality that they get routinely renewed. This will free up a bit of the committee's time for other duties.

Unit Value Changes
The FEC reviewed 14 requests (from eight departments) to revalue course units, most of which were endorsed. One department requested that ten of its undergraduate courses be re-valued. That proposal was returned to the department for additional consideration and revision.

Further, the L&S FEC and Committee on Courses and General Education (CCGE) engaged in a review and adjustment of the unit revaluation worksheet in an effort to demystify and facilitate the process. The revised worksheet will be utilized beginning Summer 2018 for course re-uniting requests.

Other Activities
The FEC weighed in on establishment of an International Center for the Humanities and Social Change as well as a non-ORU Climate Hazards Center, and reviewed the campus draft Interim Report to the WSCUC accreditation body.

FEC was pleased to be involved in the selection process for a new Associate Vice Chancellor of Undergraduate Education and Dean of L&S Undergraduate Education. We were equally pleased by the Chancellor’s selection of Jeffrey Stopple to fill that role.

The FEC oversees selection of the Harold J. Plous Memorial Award recipient. The 2018-19 Plous recipient is Douglas McCauley, EEMB. The committee also oversees selection of other awards within the college.
Selection of New Members

In spring 2018 a call for nominations was sent to all L&S faculty and the following new members were elected to serve on the FEC for three-year terms:

- Amit Ahuja (Political Science)
- Dorota Dutsch (Classics)
- James Roney (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

In addition, Mahdi Abu-Omar (Chemistry and Biochemistry) was appointed by the Committee on Committees to a one-year term to fill a vacancy due to sabbatical leave.

2017-18 FEC committee members:
- Ralph Armbruster-Sandoval, Chicana/o Studies
- Paige Digeser, Political Science
- Barry Giesbrecht, Psychological and Brain Sciences
- Bruce Lipshutz, Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Laurie Monahan, History of Art and Architecture
- Sherene Seikaly, History

*Ex officio* members:
- Jeff Stopple, AVC and Dean of Undergraduate Education
- Pierre Wiltzius, Executive Dean of the College of Letters and Science.

Student representatives:

- Mary Okin of History of Art and Architecture represented the GSA for a second year.
- Brooke Kopel served as the Associated Students undergraduate representative.