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 Executive Committee of the Faculty of a College, often abbreviated as ‘Executive Committee 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.”

**Agenda**

The major topics of discussion of the FEC over the course of the academic year were the following:

- Proposed changes to undergraduate majors
- Proposed changes to language requirements
- Proposed moratorium on new majors in a discipline
- Change of procedure for complete withdrawal
- Requests for new undergraduate emphases
- Approval of new and modified courses
- Questions surrounding course credit
- Development of questions for use by the External Review Committees (ERCs) in academic program reviews
- Comments on the ERC report and departmental response
- Proposed Senate regulation on academic integrity
- Admission requirements for majors
- Change in admission requirements for transfer students
- Proposed name changes in academic units and majors
- Removal of Advanced Placement articulations
- Comments on the draft academic plan for UC Santa Barbara
- Election of new members to the FEC
- Creation of an interdisciplinary center
- Informal Review of Policies for Transfer, Consolidation or Discontinuance of a Graduate or Undergraduate Program Leading to a Degree or Certificate and to Transfer, Consolidate or Disestablish an Academic Unit
- Proposed Changes to Academic Personnel Manual 700, 710, 711, and 080 related to Paid Sick Leave, Reasonable Accommodations, Medical Separation, and Constructive Resignation
- Change in requirements for reporting cheating in classes

**Issues and Concerns**

The major issues addressed by the FEC during the course of the academic year relate to maintaining the highest academic standards while providing departments the flexibility they need to manage their majors effectively and providing students appropriate access to those majors. Thus, decisions and recommendations by the FEC on proposals for changing course requirements, language requirements, and other requirements for the major, as well as the approval of new courses, are reviewed carefully and thoughtfully. The FEC brings the same curricular-based point of view to all issues on which we are asked to comment, believing that the FEC’s closeness to the College and its departments and programs allows us a unique perspective. It is an advantage to have as members of the FEC not only six College faculty members, but also the Executive Dean, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, and an undergraduate student representative.
A difficult issue in 2005-06 has been the proposals by departments to limit the number of majors either through a cap on the number of majors or by implementing more stringent requirements for entering the major. There is sometimes an inequity between the number of students desiring to major in a discipline and the number of faculty FTE in that discipline. We have taken action and made recommendations this year on a case-by-case basis, but balancing supply and demand in majors and the methods used to achieve this balance will be an important challenge for the College in upcoming years.

A related issue is the increasing number of proposals for departments to modify transfer admission requirements. The FEC’s goal has been to put these proposals into a broad context and understand the implications of these proposed modifications on the students, the campus admissions office, the department or program offering the proposal, and other departments and programs. After reviewing these proposals, the FEC provides its recommendations as well as this context for consideration by the Undergraduate Council.

In conjunction with the Undergraduate Council, the FEC made progress this year on an important procedural matter. While the FEC has authority over many curricular matters within the College, the Undergraduate Council has a campuswide charge to make “policy for undergraduate education at UCSB.” (Divisional Regulation Chapter III, Section 3.80.D.1) We have worked constructively with Chair Stephen McLean of the Undergraduate Council and Chair Robert Warner of the Committee on Undergraduate Programs and Policy to clarify what issues should be forwarded to the Undergraduate Council. The most important element in continuing to clarify the relationship between the FEC and Undergraduate Council is good communication between the Chairs and staff analysts for these bodies.

For specific actions taken by the FEC during the year, please refer to the set of public minutes for each meeting appended to this report.

Members

Professor Richard Church
Professor Helen Couclelis
Associate Professor Lisa Hajjar
Executive Dean David Marshall (ex officio)
Professor William Prizer
Associate Professor Luke Roberts
Professor France Winddance Twine
Dean of Undergraduate Studies Alan Wyner (ex officio)
Ms. Sara Rosenblit (student representative)