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 Barbara Prézelin was elected FEC Chair at the first meeting. In Winter quarter, for health reasons, she became unable to serve in this capacity, and Professor Robert Williams was elected to serve as Acting Chair for the remainder of the academic year. Professor Bishnupriya Ghosh was elected to serve as Secretary, replacing Professor Williams in that role. Professor Richard Church was appointed by the Academic Senate Committee on Committees to replace Professor Prézelin on the FEC as a second faculty representative from the Division of Mathematical, Life, and Physical Sciences.

Executive Summary
In addition to its routine business -- especially the review of established academic programs and issues specific to them -- the Committee spent much of its time this year helping to work out the new Minimum Cumulative Progress requirement. Along with the Undergraduate Council and other agencies involved, the Committee weighed the merits of the requirement from both philosophical and practical administrative perspectives; student concerns were also heard. The Committee was supportive of the new requirement but also went on the record insisting that the revenue received be devoted primarily to the most urgent pedagogical needs of undergraduates in the College of Letters and Science.

A great deal of time was also spent on a closely related issue, that of assigning new unit valuations (“re-uniting”) for undergraduate courses: on reviewing the proposals of specific departments for the upgrading of their various courses and on establishing criteria and guidelines for future proposals. Again, these deliberations were coordinated with those of the Undergraduate Council, and resulted, toward the end of the year, in a joint memo that we hope will be of value in what will undoubtedly be a lengthy and complex process.

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

Minimum Cumulative Progress and Course Unit Revaluation
Curricular Matters
Proposals for New Programs
Name Changes
ERC Comments and Questions
Comments on Policy Matters
Student Grade Appeal
FEC Election
Naming of the Harold J. Plous Award Recipient

Details on the actions taken by the FEC are provided below.

Curricular Matters
The FEC engaged in extensive discussions on the issue of Minimum Cumulative Progress and course unit valuation. Professors Ghosh and Hinkley and Dean Wyner served on the Joint Undergraduate Council-Faculty Executive Committee Task Force on Course Unit Valuation, a process that eventually led to the following guidelines being sent to department chairs in a joint memo from UgC Chair Peter Digeser and FEC Chair Robert Williams:
Guidelines for Submission of Course Revaluation Requests

Departments wishing to submit requests for course revaluation (adjustment of unit value) should follow these guidelines. Note that these are necessary steps but that they do not guarantee the revaluation.

1. Submit a unit change request through the Master Course Approval (MCA) system. Requests for any other modifications to the same course should be submitted into the MCA system via a separate proposal.

2. Forward to the appropriate college executive committee a supplemental memo that provides a compelling rationale for revaluation of the course. Please estimate the time required for a typical student to complete each category of work assigned – reading, preparation for exams, writing papers, creative projects, preparation for discussion sections, etc. In making these estimates, we ask that you not think in terms of the exceptionally fast or slow learner. These course elements may be itemized in terms of the amount of time per week or over the course of the quarter. The relevant Academic Senate regulations and rulings are as follows:

   UC Regulation 760: “The value of a course in units shall be reckoned at the rate of one unit for three hours’ work per week per term on the part of a student, or the equivalent.”

   UCSB Undergraduate Council Ruling 3.07: “For the purpose of implementing Systemwide Regulation 760 in determining the value of a course in units, it is presumed that for typical lower-division courses, one hour of lecture and/or discussion section per week requires an additional two hours of work per week on the part of each student. Hence one hour of lecture and/or discussion per week should typically be worth one unit of credit. It is understood that this presumption may not hold for all lower-division courses, and in those cases some justification regarding student workload will be required before units can be assigned to the course.”

3. We ask that the memo also describe the expected impact of the course revaluation on the department’s majors, as well as on students in other majors who might be required to take the course. If there is a potential impact on students in another major, we request that you provide documentation indicating that the chair of the offering department(s) has had an opportunity to comment on the proposed revaluation, and that any resulting comments be forwarded with your memo. If the course is an upper division course, please comment on how the revaluation will affect the total upper division units required for the major, bearing in mind the maxima for the various degree programs as described in Senate Regulation 125.

4. Submit a syllabus or two from recent offerings of the course. In a case where a current course is being restructured, submit a projected syllabus.

During this process, the FEC reviewed course unit revaluation proposals from the following departments: Art, Classics, Communication, Earth Science, Exercise and Sports Studies, French, Military Science, Psychology, and Speech and Hearing Sciences.

On a different subject, the FEC reviewed the proposed plan to reopen the moratorium of the Law and Society Program. The FEC supported lifting the moratorium but had reservations about the statistics of the impacts on student enrollments with regards to GPA requirements. The FEC requested a more accurate and better explanation of enrollment numbers with regards to GPA before forwarding the proposal to the Undergraduate Council. A revised proposal was subsequently received, and the FEC voted unanimously to support the Law and Society plan to re-open the major. The FEC will also indicate to the Undergraduate Council its concern about the availability of “gateway” courses (LawSo 11, 112, and 113) and raise the issue of fairness in excluding continuing students from the LawSo major.
The FEC approved the Department of French and Italian’s proposed changes to courses that fulfill requirements for the French Major.

The Proposal to Change Requirements of the Physics Minor was approved by the FEC. A memo will go to the Undergraduate Council for final action.

The request from the Department of Economics to increase the minimum grade requirement for majors from C- to C in its pre-major courses was approved by the FEC.

The FEC unanimously approved the Course Materials Fee proposal from Physics.

The FEC reviewed the revised “Proposal for a Major in Cultural Studies within the College of Creative Studies for the B.A. Degree” and wrote the initiator to request additional information, including comments from Dean Oliver, a record of departmental votes from supporting departments, and details on the cross-listing of the program’s core courses.

Proposals for New Programs or Discontinuation of Existing Programs

The FEC voted unanimously to approve the revised Proposal for a Labor Studies Minor and forwarded comments to the Undergraduate Council.

The FEC voted unanimously not to endorse the proposal for a Computational Mathematics Emphasis within the Computer Science B.A. degree, inviting resubmission with only lower division courses listed as preparation for the major.

The proposal for a five-year BS-Chemistry/MS-Materials combined program was unanimously endorsed by the FEC. Comments were forwarded to the Graduate Council for action.

The Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) of the College of Letters and Science reviewed and voted unanimously in support of the proposal for an Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Ancient Mediterranean Studies. Comments were forwarded to Graduate Council.

Name Changes

The FEC approved the name change of the Women’s Studies Program to the Department of Feminist Studies.

ERC Comments and Questions

The FEC submitted to the Program Review Panel comments and suggested questions to be included in the academic program review for the following departments:

- Department of Communication
- Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology
- Department of English
- Department of History
- Department of Statistics and Applied Probability

The FEC also submitted comments and suggested questions to be included in the dean’s program review of the Department of Exercise and Sport Studies and the dean’s program review of the Writing Program.
Comments on Policy Matters

The FEC commented about the improvement to the Revised UCEP and CCGA Report of “The Role of Graduate Students in University Instruction” and Proposed APM changes by removal of the requirement that graduate student instructors be prohibited from acting as Instructors of Record and by relaxing the lower division requirement for these instructors. The committee again suggests decisions in this area are best made by the dean. The committee forwarded questions and concerns to the Academic Senate.

The FEC voted unanimously to endorse the Revised Policies on Transfer, Consolidation, Discontinuance, and Disestablishment and forwarded its comments to the Academic Senate.

The Report of the University of California Joint Ad Hoc Committee on International Programs was reviewed, and the following principles will be endorsed in a memo to the Chair of the Academic Senate: international educational opportunities offered through UC to UC students, even through outside vendors, must adhere to UC academic standards; the effect on average student unit loads at each campus and the integration of units into a student’s academic program need to be considered when outside vendors are used; a complete budget that details the effects of restructuring international education opportunities for UC students going abroad and foreign students coming to UC should be provided to each campus; and the full level of administrative tasks and an expectation of which units would provide them should also be provided to each campus.

The FEC discussed the Recommended Guidelines for Departmental Instructional Workload Policies as distributed by the Executive Vice Chancellor. A memo to the Academic Senate endorsed the spirit of the Executive Vice Chancellor’s efforts on behalf of the campus and recommend working through the academic dean as the request for information goes to departments.

The FEC supported the development of guidelines/policies for the Dialectic on the use of Remote and Online Instruction for the Delivery of University Instruction and stands prepare to review them when they are produced.

The Committee reviewed the Revised Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools Proposal to Reform UC’s Freshman Eligibility Policy. The committee had reservations with the proposal and forwarded its comments to the Chair of the Academic Senate.

Student Grade Appeal

The FEC considered and took action on a student grade appeal in accordance with Appendix V of the Academic Senate Divisional Regulations.

FEC Elections

(FEC) approved the following election results for four members of next year’s FEC:

- Two-year term representing the Division of Humanities & Fine Arts: Laurie Monahan, Department of History of Art and Architecture
- Two-year term representing the Division of Social Sciences: Reginald Daniel, Department of Sociology
- One-year term representing the Division of Social Sciences: Kathleen Moore, Law and Society Program
- Two-year term representing the Division of Mathematics, Life, and Physical Sciences: David Lea, Department of Earth Science

Naming of the Harold J. Plous Award Recipient

The FEC approved the selection of the 2007-08 Harold J. Plous Award winner in October 2007 (Assistant Professor Thuc-Quyen Nguyen, Chemistry and Biochemistry) and the 2008-09 Harold J. Plous Award winner in June 2008 (Assistant Professor Tommaso Treu, Physics).
Members
Professor Richard Church (end of Winter quarter and Spring quarter)
Associate Professor Andrew Flanagin
Professor John Foran
Associate Professor Bishnupriya Ghosh
Professor David Hinkley
Executive Dean David Marshall (ex officio)
Ms. Kathleen Miner (student representative)
Professor Barbara Prézelin (Fall and beginning of Winter quarter)
Professor Robert Williams (most of Winter quarter and all Spring quarter)
Dean of Undergraduate Studies Alan Wyner (ex officio)