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 Bishnupriya Ghosh was elected FEC Chair at the first meeting. In Spring quarter, she had to withdraw from the committee and was replaced by Professor Laurie Monahan for one meeting and Professor David Lea for the remainder of the academic year. Professor Jill Felber was appointed by the Academic Senate Committee on Committees to replace Professor Ghosh on the FEC as a second faculty representative from the Division of Humanities and Fine Arts.

Executive Summary
The FEC dealt with a broad range of challenging issues during the academic year 2008-2009. These issues ranged from purely pedagogical questions (i.e., how many units should a specific course be worth relative to the hours of outside work expected from the students?) to the broadest questions of how curriculum and instruction within L & S can be optimized to meet the needs of students in the 21st century. One of the highlights of the year was working with the Executive Dean and others to develop a successful and forward-looking Instructional Technology Enhancement Initiative that meets the needs of today’s students. The FEC came to a strong consensus on this issue, and in particular shaped the Initiative to have a “green” focus in line with other campus and student initiatives that emphasize sustainability. Other highlights were wrestling with the difficult issue of how the descriptions of GE subject areas should be brought up to date; there were some marked differences between the FEC and other campus committees (i.e., Undergraduate Council and CUAAP) on how to do this, but some progress was made via a one-on-one meeting between the FEC chair and the chair of CUAPP. Finally, the FEC appreciated being briefed at each of its meetings by the Executive Dean on the unfolding UC budget crisis and its impact on the campus. These briefings were vital because they gave the FEC an overview of the budgetary situation and an appreciation for its severity; this in turn allowed the FEC to consider the impact of the evolving budgetary situation in their deliberations on the future of academic programs in L & S.

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

- Course Valuation
- Curricular Matters
- Instructional Technology Enhancement Initiative
- Academic Program Reviews
- Comments on Policy Matters
- New Programs
- FEC Election
- Naming of the Harold J. Plous Award Recipient

Details on the actions taken by the FEC are provided below.
**Course Valuation**
The FEC continued to receive requests for course re-uniting from L&S departments. The FEC Chair and Acting Dean Nisbet met with CUAPP Chair W. Davies King regarding these requests to promote consistency in evaluation by the different committees. The FEC Chair, Dean Marshall, and Acting Dean Nisbet also met with the Chairs of Undergraduate Council and CUAPP regarding from departments for restructuring of courses and/or curriculum due to budget cutbacks. The FEC revised the “Guidelines for Submission of Course Revaluation Requests,” emphasizing that the process of reviewing courses for potential revaluation is separate and distinct from the process of reorganizing the curriculum.

Following discussion of the thorough workload information provided by the department, the FEC endorsed the increase from 4 to 5 units for first-year German (German 1, 2, 3) and second-year German (German 4, 5, 6).

The FEC requested more quantitative data on the request for re-uniting of Women’s 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, and 80; upon receipt of these data, which show a 15 hour/week student workload, the FEC submitted the request to CUAPP with its endorsement.

In response to financial constraints and the reduction in TAs, the instructor and department eliminated sections for Linguistics 30 and 50. The re-uniting worksheet submitted by the department demonstrated that the reduced number of weekly contact hours did not reduce the student workload of 12 hours per week and 120 hours per quarter. Thus, the FEC recommended to CUAPP that these two lower division courses be continued at four units.

The FEC considered the proposal to increase the unit value of Exercise and Sport Studies 48 (“Lifeguard Training and Basic Rescue/Water Safety”) in light of its academic workload. While the FEC agreed that ESS 48 serves an important practical purpose and seems well-organized, the explanatory note, syllabus, and re-uniting worksheets did not demonstrate sufficient reading or other academic content in the course to warrant revaluation to five units. Thus, the proposal was not forwarded to the Committee on Undergraduate Academic Programs and Policy for its consideration, and ESS 48 remained at two units.

Finding that Sociology 1 requires at least a 15 hour/week student workload as taught by all its instructors, the FEC voted unanimously to endorse the increase to five units and send the department’s proposal to CUAPP.

In response to the Department of History’s request to “. . . substitute films and documentaries for sections and count the films and documentaries as a fourth ‘contact’ hour” in History 17E without change in unit value (4 units) for the course, there was discussion of the referenced films and documentaries and the appropriateness of replacing a discussion section with them. The following motion was moved, seconded and approved: That the proposal for History 17E be re-formulated to emphasize the pedagogical basis for the change rather than budgetary concerns. The FEC also recommend that the department consider submitting the proposal for a 1-2 year trial basis.

**Curricular Matters**
On behalf of L&S, Deans Marshall and Nisbet repeatedly sought the FEC’s advice as it worked through the difficult challenges associated with curricular planning, enrollment, availability of classes, and quality of courses in light of budget cutbacks.

The FEC discussed the proposed discontinuance of the Business Economics major and Accounting emphasis, proposed establishment of the Economics and Accounting major and Finance emphasis, and proposed changes in pre-major requirements, developing a set of
questions for the department. Dean Melvin Oliver attended an FEC meeting to provide information about the program and related resource issues. Based on the revised proposal, the department’s response to the two memos, and the comments from Dean Oliver, the FEC unanimously endorsed the revised proposals from the Department of Economics for its proposed changes to the Economics majors, including the establishment of the Economics and Accounting major and eventual discontinuance of the Business Economics major during a transition period that honors commitments to students who have declared this major. The Economics proposals and the committee’s endorsement were forwarded for action to the Undergraduate Council.

The FEC determined that the Interdisciplinary Studies (INT) designation should not be used for courses that are not taught by faculty in the College of Letters and Science, courses that are not regularly offered by and administered in the College, and courses that will not be available to UCSB students? As de facto department chair for Interdisciplinary Studies, Acting Dean Nisbet agreed to apply these principles to the proposals for INT 10, INT 93CS, and INT 125. She also inquired at Gevirtz Graduate School of Education (GGSE) whether or not INT 20, previously approved for an INT designation, should have a GGSE designation instead.

After review of the material, which has been examined by the dean and staff in L&S Undergraduate Education, the FEC voted unanimously to endorse the proposal for restructuring the UCSB Computer Science lower division curriculum, beginning Fall quarter 2009, according to the details provided in the January 2, 2009 memo from Professor Chandra Krintz to the College of Engineering Faculty Executive Committee.

The consensus of the FEC was that the additional wording from CUAPP did not clarify the current descriptions of the General Education Area Objectives beyond the current short description. The FEC recommended consultation with the L&S “Guide to Evaluation of Transfer Courses for General Education”. Following an exchange of memos, the FEC Chair, Chair of CUAPP, and Acting Dean of Undergraduate Education met to discuss the issue.

Following discussion, the FEC voted unanimously to endorse the proposal from the College of Engineering Faculty Executive Committee to add a foreign language option to its General Education Program. The FEC requested that the College of Engineering monitor the number of students who take advantage of the foreign language option over the next three years and provide these numbers to the Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts.

Responding to an inquiry from the Registrar, the FEC determined that course changes such as level limits and exceptional instruction format should be overseen by the Dean of Undergraduate Education.

**Instructional Technology Enhancement Initiative**

In January 2009 Dean Marshall summarized the draft L&S proposal, designed to improve and enhance instructional technology on campus. In the absence of a campus funding source or any other viable alternative, the proposal uses a course materials fee model. Following extensive discussion, Professor Lea indicated that improving instructional technology was a “must-do” for the campus and emphasized the sustainability component of putting instructional materials online. There was agreement that the university needs to update its instructional facilities but also look to the future and be poised to incorporate innovations. On the issue of computer labs, it was noted that they are a valuable resource for both faculty and students. Student representative Scott McDonald indicated that from a student’s perspective, important aspects of the initiative are making the campus “greener,” saving students money on textbooks and readers, and creating opportunities for future innovation. In February 2009 Dean Marshall
reported that the L&S Instructional Technology Enhancement Initiative had been presented to department chairs and business officers, beginning a process of wider consultation.

In March 2009 Dean Marshall formally presented the initiative to the FEC, stating that the initiative would allow L&S to expand on the campus’s successful course management system pilot project; classrooms and labs would be updated to take advantage of advances in technology. Faculty and students would be able to utilize on-line course materials and remote access and mobile technologies. Faculty members could offer web-based technologies such as lectures, tutorials, quizzes, assignment submissions, grading, research materials, multimedia, file-sharing, wikis, chat rooms, and podcasts. The faculty would be supported in these efforts by graduate students hired as TAs. In short, adoption of this initiative would allow UCSB students to have access to 21st-century technologies largely unavailable on campus. While the FEC was loath to recommend a fee for students at this very difficult budget time, it saw no option to realizing these necessary instructional improvements in the College of Letters and Science. The FEC voted unanimously to approve the Instructional Technology Enhancement Initiative and course materials fee for submission to the Student Fee Advisory Committee with the understanding that consultation processes will continue on campus and the appendices will be added later.

**Academic Program Reviews**
The FEC participated in and offered comments for the academic program reviews of the following departments:

- Department of Economics
- Department of French and Italian
- Department of German, Slavic, and Semitic Studies
- Comparative Literature Program
- Department of Department of Mathematics
- Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
- Department of Statistics and Applied Probability

The FEC also reviewed materials and offered comments for the dean’s program review of the Department of Exercise and Sport Studies. The FEC discussed the External Review Committee (ERC) report in its entirety, along with the departmental response and the additional ERC members’ letters, and agreed with the ERC report that the ESS minors do not have sufficient academic merit to warrant the designation of a UC minor. The consensus was to recommend that the minors be discontinued and the department focus instead on the very positive aspects of the ESS program. The FEC sent its comments to Dean Oliver for consideration.

**Comments on Policy Matters**
The FEC endorsed the addition of the following text to the Senate Manual under Appendix III: Policy Rulings by the Undergraduate Council and the Former Committee on Undergraduate Courses: “If a course has been designated as upper-division (i.e., numbered from 100 to 199), it must have one or more prerequisites. Prerequisites may include preparatory courses (with a passing grade or higher), consent of instructor or department, class level restrictions, major limitations, or minimum test scores.” The endorsement was made with the understanding that this addition would not create obstacles for access to upper division courses.

The FEC offered comments on the “UC Accountability Framework”. Citing a decline in writing and critical thinking ability among students over the years, it recommended better metrics to assess these skills and increased planning efforts that focus on critical thinking and writing.
Discussion of the UC Education Abroad Program Business Plan focused on a desire for clarity regarding the projected costs of the restructured program and how funds will be redistributed. Acknowledging the dire budget climate, the FEC was still disappointed that UC faculty will no longer be on-site at study centers. The FEC suggested that information be provided on how UC standards will be upheld under the new EAP structure and how economically disadvantaged students will be able to afford the higher fees.

The Western Association of Schools and College (WASC) reaccreditation draft was again presented to the FEC. In addition to suggesting the integration of assessment into all WASC themes, there was consensus that the theme of “internationalization” should be updated, including using the term “globalization” to reflect the nature and diversity of efforts among UCSB faculty and departments. On the undergraduate research theme, the FEC encouraged an expanded description of opportunities, including bold new measures that capitalize on faculty strengths and engage faculty as well as students in meaningful research. When the draft was re-circulated to the FEC in April 2009, the FEC remained supportive of the three themes and sub-goals, but also remained disappointed in the presentation and lack of a sense of direction for the WASC draft. The FEC conveyed its comments.

Following discussion, the FEC unanimously endorsed priority registration for veteran students by recommendation from the UC Office of the President to “establish procedures that ensure veterans and activity duty service members have priority in course enrollment.”

Proposed international agreement procedures, which have been used effectively in the College over several years, were circulated with the endorsement of the Academic Senate’s Committee on International Education. With the correction of the typo in the title (“Institute”), the FEC voted unanimously to endorse the procedures.

**New Programs and Re-naming**

The FEC unanimously and enthusiastically endorsed the proposal from the Department of Music for the Doctor of Musical Arts in Horn and will send a memo to Graduate Council expressing its strong support.

While strongly supportive of the GGSE proposal for the Science and Mathematics Education Minor, which would be offered to L&S students, the FEC wrote to the initiators with questions about the efforts that have been made to include the faculty of other departments in MLPS, identify or introduce courses in other MLPS departments that would fulfill requirements for the minor; and identify and incorporate into the Minor a reflection of ongoing modifications to mathematics education in California schools. After receiving a comprehensive and informative response from GGSE, FEC members endorsed the Minor and forwarded the proposal to the Undergraduate Council for action.

The FEC endorsed the renaming of the major and minor in Feminist Studies, an action recommended by the FEC last year when the department name was changed to Feminist Studies.

FEC members agreed that the proposal for a new Minor in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) from the Department of Linguistics presented a strong program that responds to student demand and has the involvement of an impressive set of faculty members. In response to questions about Linguistics 20A, there was agreement that the Linguistics Department Chair’s assertion that no additional faculty FTE will be required to handle the workload should be accepted in good faith. No commitment at this juncture may be made for
additional TAs in the future. The FEC voted unanimously to endorse the proposal and forward it to the Undergraduate Council, referencing the resource issue in its memo.

In discussing the Language, Culture and Society major from the Department of Linguistics, there were questions about the ability of the students in this new major to access elective courses in other departments. The FEC also noted that the department’s statement to the effect that “[t]his degree will replace the existing Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics—Sociocultural Emphasis” implied that a proposal to disestablish this replaced emphasis should be forthcoming from the department. Linguistics is strong in this area, but the department cannot count on new resources for this program. The FEC voted unanimously to endorse the proposal from the Department of Linguistics and will forward its endorsement and comments to the Undergraduate Council for further action.

The proposal for an Optional M.A. and Ph.D. Emphasis in Translation Studies was considered. Acknowledging campus strengths in both theory and practice within this field, the FEC noted that an optional graduate emphasis could provide a good option for students in several disciplines. There was consensus that the proposal was complete and that the initiators had responded positively to the questions posed by Graduate Council in its November 30, 2006 memo. An endorsement memo was crafted for Graduate Council.

The FEC of the College of Letters and Science discussed a proposed emphasis in Linguistics through the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. While in support of the potential strength and value of the program, the FEC cited the 2005-06 departmental self-assessment, which indicated that two pivotal faculty members who would teach courses for the emphasis were nearing retirement. The chair wrote the department to request information on how the program for the proposed emphasis would be delivered in light of announced or likely retirements.

The FEC commended the faculty on the proposal for a Ph.D. Emphasis in Economics and Environmental Science. The Department of Economics and Bren School of Environmental Science and Management have a proven track record and will build on the strength of the NSF IGERT. The program is expected to continue to be a draw for potential graduate students as well as for faculty across campus beyond the original group. The committee voted unanimously to endorse the proposal pending statements of support from the L&S deans.

The FEC was asked to review the proposal for a technology management academic unit, minor, and graduate certificate because L&S faculty are involved and L&S students may take the minor. The value of this entrepreneurial program was discussed, but there was uncertainty about the level of commitment being asked of L&S faculty. The FEC voted unanimously to authorize the Chair to write a memo expressing the FEC’s support of the program and suggesting that the L&S deans be invited to comment on how L&S faculty will be used in the program before the proposal moves forward.

**FEC Elections**
The FEC approved the following election results for three members of next year’s FEC:

- Two-year term representing the Division of Humanities & Fine Arts: Stefania Tutino, Departments of History and Religious Studies
- Two-year term representing the Division of Social Sciences: Robin Nabi, Department of Communication
- Two-year term representing the Division of Mathematics, Life, and Physical Sciences: Galen Stucky, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
Naming of the Harold J. Plous Award Recipient
The FEC approved the selection of the 2009-10 Harold J. Plous Award winner: Assistant Professor Bradley Cardinale, Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology.

Members
Associate Professor G. Reginald Daniel
Professor Jill Felber
Associate Professor Bishnupriya Ghosh (Chair Fall and Winter quarters)
Professor David Hinkley
Professor David Lea (Chair Spring quarter)
Executive Dean David Marshall (ex officio)
Associate Professor Laurie Monahan (Chair first meeting of Spring quarter)
Professor Kathleen Moore
Acting Dean of Undergraduate Studies Mary Nisbet (ex officio)
Mr. Daniel Plotkin (Fall) and Mr. Scott McDonald (Winter/Spring) – A.S. student representatives