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 David Lea was elected FEC Chair at the first meeting on October 5, 2010 and offers this Annual Report for academic year 2009-2010.

**Executive Summary**

The FEC was tasked with a series of challenging and important issues during the academic year 2009-2010. These issues included curricular matters, new programs, academic program reviews, comments on policy matters, the FEC election, and the naming of the annual Plous award winner. The FEC’s response to many of these issues was colored by the ongoing UC budget crisis. At all times, however, the FEC endeavored to ensure that academic excellence was the primary criterion that guided its deliberations and decisions. Curricular issues that received particular attention related to the establishment of pre-majors, the policy for course repeats, and proposed changes to individual majors. This last issue was of particular concern to the FEC, because budgetary pressures on the teaching programs of individual departments were the motivation for some of the proposed changes. In reviewing these changes, the FEC attempted to ensure that departments were not significantly weakening the academic content of their majors. The FEC also spent considerable time commenting on some of the major policy changes UC is considering, such as those contained in the report by the UC Commission on the Future, the Differential Fee proposal and the Online and Remote Instruction proposal. These discussions were quite valuable, because the FEC always considered the proposed changes both in light of how they affected UC in a broad sense and through the optic of the specific needs and aspirations of the College of Letters and Science. At all times during these discussions, whether focused on the narrow issue of course re-uniting or the broad issue of how UC can best deliver a 21st century education, the FEC valued the insight and background that were cheerfully and graciously provided by Executive Dean Marshall and Acting Undergraduate Dean Mary Nisbet.

Additional points from 2009-2010 that do not fit into regular categories of FEC activities:
- the FEC received notification that the Rules, Jurisdiction and Elections Committee had ruled that the FEC’s *ex officio* members, the L&S Executive Dean and L&S Dean of Undergraduate Education, do not have the voting privileges in the FEC.
- FEC members D. Lea and R. Daniel served on the Joint FEC/Undergraduate Council (UgC) Task Force, which revised the *Guide to Evaluation of Transfer Courses*.
- In the Fall, Chair D. Lea invited open discussion of the FEC’s role within the Academic Senate and the university in general. While most of the FEC’s business comes to it from L&S departments or other Senate bodies, there is precedent for the FEC to be pro-active in selecting an issue for review and potential action. Topics mentioned for consideration included the effects of budget cuts on the curriculum and the declining level of students’ writing and critical analysis skills. There was agreement that the FEC’s time would be
well-spent in considering important academic topics beyond the items it receives for its agenda, but only on concrete issues on which the FEC could take meaningful action.

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

Curricular Matters  
Course Valuation  
New Programs and Re-Naming  
Academic Program Reviews  
Comments on Policy Matters  
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 voted unanimously to support the decision by the Acting Dean of Undergraduate Education to allow for the second repeat of a course (under Regulation 20 of the UCSB Division of the Academic Senate) only as an exception when students present reasonable justification for taking a course more than twice.

The proposal for a new Emphasis in Language and Linguistics within the Department of Spanish and Portuguese was reviewed by the FEC. With support for the program but concerns about adequate resources in difficult budget times, the FEC voted unanimously to return the proposal to the department without its endorsement.

The FEC voted unanimously to endorse the Writing Program's proposal to modify the structure of Writing 105 and Writing 107 to provide more logical and clear distinctions among the types of courses, to make course numbering more consistent, and to have more courses satisfy the second part of the Area A GE requirement.

The FEC unanimously endorsed the proposal to establish a pre-major in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

The FEC voted unanimously to endorse the proposal from the Department of Earth Science to establish a pre-major, discontinue the Earth and Planetary Science Emphasis, establish the Concentration in Earth and Planetary Science within the Geophysics major, and change the name of the Earth Systems Emphasis to Climate and Environment Emphasis, all effective Fall 2010.

The FEC voted unanimously not to extend the waiver of the requirement for a third year of language study in the Global Studies major and will recommend to the Global and International Studies Program that it work with the Acting Dean of Undergraduate Education for future implementation of the departmental requirements.

The FEC voted unanimously to endorse the proposal from the University Committee on Educational Policy to rescind SR 764, which is characterized as “too restrictive for current pedagogy and educational opportunities.” The policy states as follows: “764. Credit in special study courses for undergraduates is limited to five units per term.”
The FEC unanimously endorsed the Department of Psychology’s proposed changes to the Biopsychology Major, including the reduction from two to one in the required upper division laboratory classes from Area “B”. Later, the FEC voted unanimously to support the Department of Psychology’s request for its proposed changes to the Biopsychology major to apply to students in previous Calendar Years, if the students so desire.

The FEC unanimously endorsed the proposal from the Department of Economics to remove PSTAT 5E, Mathematics 34A, and Mathematics 34B from the pre-major GPA calculation for the Economics major and the Economics and Accounting major.

The FEC reviewed the Department of Political Science’s proposal for revisions to the major to “(1) to drop the International Relations Emphasis; (2) restructure the standard Political Science major so that there is more flexibility for students in meeting major requirements; (3) to shift a required course from the upper division to the lower division. Upon receipt of additional information from the Department, the FEC unanimously endorsed the proposed revisions.

The FEC discussed information provided by Acting Dean Mary Nisbet regarding the College of Letters and Science Honors Program. Recognizing the increasing percentage of eligible students, the FEC approved changes to the program as follows: 1) increase the minimum GPA requirement for eligibility from 3.5 to 3.6; 2) admit students at only three points, upon their entering the University as freshmen or transfer students, between the freshman and sophomore years, and between the sophomore and junior years; 3) admit freshmen into the Honors Program in two tiers, an initial group of the highest ADM scores and a second group on the basis of ADM score until the target number of freshmen is reached; 4) replace the unit requirement for earning the Academic Excellence Award and maintaining eligibility for the Honors Program with a requirement to complete a specified number of academic honors experiences.

The FEC reviewed the proposed changes to the undergraduate programs in the Department of History of Art and Architecture. The FEC voted unanimously to endorse the discontinuance of the Art of Africa, Asia and the Americas emphasis, revise the requirements in the Art History major, and revise the requirements in the Architecture and Environment emphasis.

The FEC voted unanimously to endorse an expedited review of the "Law and Society Proposal to Discontinue the Academic Major Program and Disestablish the Academic Unit". The FEC considered the information presented on the LawSo faculty votes, efforts taken to ensure appropriate placement of the Program faculty, small number of students remaining in the major, status of staff members, and minimal anticipated additional impact of these actions on other units. Given the effects of the moratorium and the work done to ensure fair treatment of faculty, staff and students, the FEC voted unanimously to endorse the expedited review. At its next meeting, the FEC voted unanimously to endorse the discontinuance of the Law and Society major and disestablishment of the academic unit.

The FEC unanimously endorsed two proposals from the Department of Theater and Dance: the proposed suspension of admission into three emphases (B.A. Emphasis in Design, B.A. Emphasis in Directing, and B.A. Emphasis in Playwriting) and the reformulation of the B.A. Theater Major.

The FEC voted unanimously to endorse the department’s proposed changes to the B.S. in Mathematical Sciences.

The FEC approved the request to extend the waiver for the increased foreign language requirement in the Global Studies Major but informed the Chair of the Global and International
Studies Program that future changes to the language requirement must be brought to the FEC as soon as possible and without expectation of future waivers.

The FEC endorsed the following proposed changes to the English as a Second Language program:

- Discontinue the current workload-credit only courses ESL/Linguistics 1, 2 and 3.
- Replace ESL/Linguistics 1, 2 and 3 with degree-credit courses ESL/Linguistics 3A, 3B and 3C.
- Change grading for the upper two levels, which are currently Pass/No Pass only to letter grade only.
- Limit the number of times Linguistics 3A, 3B or 3C can be taken to one.
- Reduce the number of classroom contact hours for the two lower levels from 6 hours per week to 4 hours per week for these four-unit courses.

The FEC also voted unanimously to endorse the proposed name change of the ESL Program to Academic English for Multilingual Students.

With support from Dean Marshall and Associate Vice Chancellor Tobin, the FEC endorsed a proposal to suspend admissions for three years into the graduate level Summer Institute in French and Francophone Studies.

**Course Valuation**

The FEC voted unanimously to endorse the proposal for re-uniting of Italian 1-6 and 26 from four to five units.

On the basis of documentation provided by the Department that shows no reduction in student workload due to the loss of a discussion section, the FEC unanimously endorsed the continued four-unit value of Linguistics 137.

The FEC reviewed the proposal from the Department of Earth Science to rename Geology 115 to “Analytical Methods in Geomaterials” and revalue the course from two units to four units. Upon receipt of additional information from the department that show a student workload commensurate with 4-unit course, the FEC voted unanimously to endorse the request to increase the unit value from 2 to 4 units for Geology 115 and its renaming as “Analytical Methods in Geomaterials”.

The FEC reviewed the proposal from the Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology to increase the unit value of MCDB 133L from three units to four units. The FEC voted unanimously to endorse the proposed re-uniting based on the course description, re-uniting template and syllabus that support a student workload in excess of the required 12 hours/week for a four-unit course.

The course description, syllabus and uniting template for Religious Studies 90KM indicate a student workload that warrants five units. Inasmuch as the unit value of new courses that meet the former contact hour standard may be approved by the FEC, the FEC voted unanimously to approve the course.

**New Programs and Re-naming**

The FEC unanimously endorsed the proposal from the Department of Statistics and Applied Probability for a four-year Bachelor of Science Degree in Actuarial Science. The FEC concluded that the new major is academically sound, responsive to student demand, and
supported by sufficient academic resources in the department. In forwarding this proposal to the Undergraduate Council, the FEC noted that the establishment of the Actuarial Science major should not negatively impact the Department's core programs.

The FEC reviewed the proposal for establishing an undergraduate minor in Spatial Studies from the Department of Geography. After further consultation with the department, the FEC unanimously endorsed the proposal and will send comments to the Undergraduate Council.

The FEC reviewed the Proposal for a Master of Science Degree in Actuarial Science and sent questions and comments to Graduate Council.

The FEC reviewed the proposal from the Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies to rename the Graduate Program to the M.A./Ph.D. Program in Chicana and Chicano Studies, effective Winter 2010. The FEC unanimously endorsed the proposal and sent a memo to Graduate Council.

The FEC offered comments on the Proposal for a Center for Biological Engineering and Science to the Academic Senate.

The FEC endorsed unanimously the Proposal for the Center for Scientific Computing, California NanoSystems Institute and Materials Research Laboratory to the Academic Senate.

**Academic Program Reviews**

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

- Department of Philosophy
- Department of Linguistics
- Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
- Media Arts and Technology Graduate Program

The FEC also reviewed materials and offered comments for the Ad Hoc Review Committee for the External Review Committee for the Technology Management Program and reviewed the Interim Review of the M.A. in Global and International Studies.

**Comments on Policy Matters**

The FEC reviewed the Differential Fee Proposal from the UC Office of the President, pointing out that the issues of access, affordability and diversity were not adequately addressed. The consensus was that the concept of differential fees is inconsistent with the concept of a liberal arts education, where students can freely explore different fields. The FEC was also concerned that differential fees might be charged for other undergraduate majors. It was noted that UCSB does not have professional schools with which its undergraduate majors are closely associated. It was also noted that if enacted, the additional income from differential fees should come to the Chancellor's general fund.

FEC comments on the Final Report of the 2008-09 Joint Administration-Senate Task Force on the Education Abroad Program (EAP) focused on the principle that education abroad should be affordable and accessible. In light of the benefits of EAP to students and campuses, and the economies of scale and efficiencies achieved with centralization of certain functions, the consensus of the FEC was that central funding for the systemwide program should continue at some level.
FEC comments to the Academic Senate on the Report of the Undergraduate Educational Effectiveness Task Force noted that extensive levels of assessment are embedded in the academic enterprise and fostered by departments and deans, and that caution should be exercised in any attempt to require academic departments to measure outcomes of a liberal arts education in a mechanical or formulaic way.

FEC comments on the Report of the Senate Special Committee on Online and Remote Instruction and Residency, the FEC supported the exploration of online and remote instruction as an enhancement to the educational experience at UCSB, which values face-to-face contact between students and instructors. The pursuit of opportunities for online and remote instruction must also uphold the institution’s academic standards and recognize the central role of the Academic Senate.

The Proposal for Faculty Course Buy-out Program for the Division of Social Sciences was reviewed by the FEC. While supportive of the Deans’ efforts to formalize procedures and lend transparency to the buy-out process, the FEC expressed concern that the Division of Social Sciences Faculty Course Buy-Out Program could allow instructional funds to be used for non-instructional purposes. The FEC strongly recommended that funds allocated for faculty salaries be used for instructional purposes only.

Comments and suggestions regarding the Model Involuntary Withdrawal Policy were sent to the Academic Senate.

The FEC offered the following comments on the recommendation from the UC Commission on the Future of the University:

1. The FEC is concerned that the Report had little discussion on what would constitute a successful and vibrant University of the 21st century. For UC to continue to thrive, it must look to the future and question existing paradigms. In this respect, the FEC supports the creation of the “UC Grand Challenge research Initiatives,” applauds this kind of forward thinking by the Commission, and urges the Commission to consider and elaborate on other proposals relating to a broader vision for the future of the University.

2. One particular area of concern for the FEC is how the nature of classroom instruction is evolving with changes in student outlook, expectation and technological facility. The FEC urges the Commission to consider ways in which UC instruction can evolve to best meet future student and societal needs.

3. The FEC felt strongly that charging differential tuition by campus could create a two-tiered system that would disadvantage many of the campuses.

4. There were expressions of concern that higher indirect cost recovery rates could discourage or disadvantage research proposals by UC faculty and researchers. Others thought they were justified by the fact that historically UC indirect cost rates have not covered the true cost of campus research.

5. The FEC supports the exploration of innovative online instruction while recognizing that this should be developed to complement rather than replace classroom instruction.

6. The FEC suggested that the Commission reaffirm UC’s commitment to access as it works to increase the enrollment of nonresident undergraduates.
7. The FEC is concerned that “improv[ing] student transfer function by developing more complete lower-division transfer pathways in high-demand majors” might disadvantage non-transfer students who have to complete their lower division offerings at UCSB.

8. The FEC endorsed the principle of finding curricular efficiencies across campuses using a bottom-up versus top-down approach; in other words, campuses should have the autonomy to plan and take advantage of resources on other campuses, rather than being told which programs they should or should not offer. Some members believe it is important to consider broader system-wide needs in relation to campus needs in terms of identifying curricular efficiencies within UC.

9. The FEC felt strongly that the problems in the retirement system must be addressed in the context of any considerations about UC’s future. The potential for financial drain associated with post employment benefits (cf. Professor Daniel Simmons’ Report, 4/16/2010) is so great that it poses an immediate and growing financial threat to a successful UC future.

The FEC reviewed the Final Report of the Joint Senate-Administrative Task Force on the Compendium and expressed concern regarding the requirement for Academic Senate review of the Five-Year Perspective. The FEC noted that Senate councils and committees are an integral part of the approval process for all academic program proposals and questioned whether these bodies need to review programs so early in their formulation, especially when the need to provide details regarding resources and program at this stage could suppress innovation in departments. It was also noted that simple name changes should not rise to the level of Coordinating Council on Graduate Affairs review. The FEC requested clarification that the proposed requirement for Academic Senate review of “reconstitution” and “consolidation” in academic units applies to changes in the academic program and that administrative changes remain under the purview of the dean.

The FEC unanimously endorsed the BOARS systemwide review of the proposal to expand the Area (d) Laboratory Science admission requirement to include earth, environmental, and space sciences and will send comments to the Academic Senate.

The FEC reviewed the UC Planning and Budgeting's Choices Report. Acknowledging the overlap with the UC Commission on the Future process, the FEC decided to endorse the sentiments of the report while recognizing that the report’s recommendations are insufficiently specific to serve as formal Academic Senate recommendations. Additional points raised by the FEC include the value of offering tuition remission for faculty; the importance of viewing on-line education as an expansion of, rather than a replacement for, face-to-face instruction (except perhaps for some graduate courses that might be offered entirely online); ensuring that innovative instructional technology is valued; avoiding additional undergraduate fee increases; and maintaining a responsible position regarding indirect cost recovery.

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

- Two-year term representing the Division of Humanities & Fine Arts: Bruce Robertson, Department of the History of Art and Architecture
- Two-year term representing the Division of Social Sciences: Stuart Smith, Department of Anthropology
- One-year term representing the Division of Social Sciences (replacing Robin Nabi): Scott Reid, Department of Communication
Two-year term representing the Division of Mathematics, Life, and Physical Sciences: Sreenivasa Jammalamadaka, Department of Statistics and Applied Probability

Following their election, Professors Robertson and Jammalamadaka resigned; in response to a request from FEC Chair David Lea, the Academic Senate’s Committee on Committees will appoint replacements.

**Naming of the Harold J. Plous Award Recipient**
The FEC approved the selection of the 2010-11 Harold J. Plous Award winner: Assistant Professor Karen Myers, Department of Communication.

**Members**
Associate Professor G. Reginald Daniel (Fall 2009 and Winter 2010)

**Professor David Lea (Chair)**
Executive Dean David Marshall (*ex officio*)
Associate Professor Laurie Monahan
Associate Professor Robin Nabi
Professor Galen Stucky
Associate Professor Stefania Tutino
Professor F. Winddance Twine (Spring 2010)
Acting Dean of Undergraduate Education Mary Nisbet (*ex officio*)
Ms. Kelsey Fisher – A.S. student representative