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 Laurie Monahan was elected FEC Acting Chair for Fall quarter at the first meeting on October 7, 2010. Professor Monahan had been appointed as a replacement for Professor Stefania Tutino during the latter’s sabbatical leave in Fall quarter. Upon her return in Winter 2011, Professor Tutino was elected Chair at the first meeting of Winter quarter on January 13, 2011. Professor Tutino offers this Annual Report for academic year 2010-2011.

Executive Summary

During the academic year 2010-2011, the FEC examined and deliberated upon a series of important issues, including curricular matters, new programs, academic program reviews, comments on policy matters, the FEC election, and the naming of the annual Plous award winner. Among those issues, the FEC gave particular attention to proposed changes to majors and to individual courses. As the FEC already saw last year, many of those proposed modifications stemmed in part from the budgetary pressures faced by the College of Letters and Sciences. While the FEC is certainly mindful of the difficulties that every department faces in the current economic climate, we remain committed to ensuring that the academic excellence of our programs is in no way compromised by the proposed changes. We were glad to see that in the majority of the cases we examined departments worked very efficiently and commendably in restructuring their programs and courses in a way that safeguards their academic integrity while making the best possible use of the existing resources. The FEC spent considerable time commenting on important policy-related matters: for instance, the FEC strongly endorsed the “University of California Funding Streams Proposal” and equally strongly endorsed the concerns expressed to President Yudof by the Academic Council on the Online Education Pilot Project. The stand that the FEC took on both issues is indicative of the way in which we see the future of the College of Letters and Science and of UCSB more generally: a world-class university committed to maintaining our already well-established research profile and to continuing to offer an education of the highest caliber to the people of California. The FEC also proposed an important revision to the election of its members, which has been approved by the Faculty Legislature. Starting with the 2012-2013 election, members of the FEC will be elected for a three-year instead of a two-year term, and any elections to fill vacancies will likewise be for a three-year term. The FEC is confident that this change will provide us with much-needed continuity and thus with the opportunity of carrying out our tasks more efficiently. Finally, the FEC continues to benefit tremendously from the insight provided by its ex-officio members Dean Marshall and Dean Nisbet.
Issues and Actions
The major topics of discussion of the FEC over the course of the academic year were the following:

- Curricular Matters and Course Valuation
- New Programs and Re-Naming
- Review of Center Proposals
- 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 and Course Valuation
The FEC reviewed and endorsed or approved (as appropriate) the following curricular changes; memos of endorsement were forwarded to the appropriate academic body.
1. The Department of Linguistics’ request to discontinue the Sociocultural emphasis within the Linguistics B.A.
2. The Department of Film and Media Studies Proposal regarding Changes to the Major.
3. The proposal by the Department of Sociology to change its pre-major requirements.
4. The revised “Guide to Evaluation of Transfer Courses for General Education.”
5. The proposal from the Department of Earth Science to 1) discontinue the Geohydrology emphasis offered within the B.S. in Geological Sciences, and 2) modify the Climate and Environment emphasis offered within the B.S. in Geological Sciences to include Geohydrology and change the name of the emphasis to Climate, Environment and Hydrology. Later, the FEC reviewed and unanimously approved the Department of Earth Science proposal to remove the Writing 109ST requirement from the B.S. and B.A. in Geological Sciences, including all emphases.
6. The proposal from the Department of Economics to modify the Honors requirements to the Economics and Economics and Accounting programs, following department response to the FEC request for further information and clarification.
7. Proposed changes to the Italian Studies major and minor, determining that the efficiencies derived from the restructuring of workload will benefit faculty and students while maintaining the pedagogical integrity of the program.
8. Proposed changes to the B.A. in French
9. The proposal from the Department of Earth Science for a unit change for the Geophysics major, increasing the upper division units from 44-47 to 49-52 units.
10. The proposal from the Department of Computer Science to eliminate Computer Science 123 and reduce the upper unit limit from 48 to 44 units in the B.A.’s three emphases: Computational Biology, Computational Economics, and Computational Geography.
11. The Response from Geography Regarding the Proposed Modification to the BS in Physical Geography by increasing the upper-division units from 44-50 to 48-55.
The FEC reviewed the proposal from the Departments of EEMB and MCDB for the proposed 140 unit limit on eligibility to declare the Biology major. The FEC requested from the Departments additional information regarding implementation.

After careful review and consideration the FEC was unable to approve:

- the proposal by the Department of Global Studies to institute a new course, Global 192, because the proposal lacked a clear and satisfactory explanation of the academic content of the proposed course. A memo was forwarded to the department.
- the proposal by the Department of Economics to institute a new course, Economics 192, because the proposal lacked a clear and satisfactory explanation of the academic content of the proposed course. A memo was forwarded to the department.

The FEC reviewed and endorsed the following proposals for course valuation:

- Retention of the four unit value for French 50AX, BX and CX.
- The Department of Earth Science Proposal Regarding Modification of Earth 118 and 119 to change Earth 118 (a six-week course) from 12 to 8 units and to change Earth 119 (a three-week course) from 6 to 4 units.

**New Programs and Re-naming**

The Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) endorsed the name change of the English as a Second Language (ESL) Program to the English for Multilingual Students Program.

The FEC unanimously endorsed the revised proposal from the Department of Statistics and Applied Probability for a Master of Science Degree in Actuarial Science. The FEC concluded that the revised proposal addressed the concerns of the FEC and fits the department well. A memo of endorsement was forwarded to the Graduate Council.

The FEC reviewed the Department of MCDB’s Response Regarding the Proposal for and Emphasis in Pharmacology and Biotechnology within the M.A. in MCDB. The FEC was grateful for the Department’s exhaustive responses, and in particular the clear description of the curriculum. The FEC unanimously endorsed the proposal and forwarded its endorsement to the Graduate Council.

The FEC endorsed unanimously (with one recusal) the request from the Department of Psychology to change its name to the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences and forwarded the proposal to the Undergraduate Council for action.

The Committee voted unanimously to endorse the Proposed Name Change of Master of Fine Arts Degree Program from Art Studio to Art and forwarded the proposal to the Graduate Council.

The FEC reviewed the Department of Earth Science Proposed Name Change of BA and BS of Geological Sciences to Earth Science. The FEC unanimously endorsed the name change and a memo to that effect was forwarded to the Undergraduate Council.
Review of Center Proposals
In response to requests from the Academic Senate, the FEC reviewed the following Center proposals:

1. Center for Scientific Computing, within the California NanoSystems Institute and Materials Research Laboratory - the FEC reiterated its endorsement of this Proposal, which was reviewed at the May 6, 2010 meeting.
2. Center for Bioengineering – endorsed
3. Center for Marine Assessment and Planning (CMAP) – endorsed
4. College of Engineering Proposal for a Cyber Security Center that will be housed in the Department of Computer Science – endorsed
5. Center on Geometric Computation, an interdisciplinary center housed within the Department of Computer Science – endorsed
6. Center for California Languages and Cultures, within the Institute for Social, Behavioral and Economic Research (ISBER) -- endorsed but with the understanding the Letters and Science Deans will have the opportunity to comment on the resource issues.
7. Gevirtz Graduate School of Education Reading Center – no comment
8. The Leonard and Gretchen Broom Center for Demography, within the Institute for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Research (ISBER) –endorsed

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

- Department of Computer Science, BA Program
- Department of Music
- Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies

Comments on Policy Matters
The FEC reviewed the proposal to rename certain UC “fees’ as “tuition,” supporting the proposal because the renaming provides a truth-in-advertising acknowledgement of the fact that students now pay a greater percentage of their UC education. The FEC cautioned that this renaming should not suggest or promote a reduced responsibility of the State to fund higher education, a capitulation to the notion of students’ eventually paying “full” tuition, or a reduced commitment to the California Master Plan for Education. The FEC’s comments were forwarded to the Academic Senate.

The FEC endorsed a request by the Dean of Undergraduate Education that the Registrar apply the academic status codes in Academic Senate Regulation 45 in academic probation and disqualification decisions.

The FEC forwarded to the Divisional Academic Senate its recommendation that the UC Commission final draft report should be reviewed by the UC Divisional Academic Senates and Academic Council prior to review and action by The Regents.
The FEC endorsed the revisions of the 1996 Policy on Self-Supporting Part-Time Graduate Professional Degree Programs and its Implementation Guidelines and a memo to this effect was forwarded to the Academic Senate.

The Faculty Executive Committee supported the “University of California Funding Streams Proposal”.

The FEC gave strong support for the eight proposed sustainability policies being reviewed by the Academic Senate.

With the understanding that the academic deans will have an opportunity to review the listings in this year’s update, and that the full Five-Year Perspective process as prescribed in the Compendium will be followed next year, the FEC endorsed unanimously the submission of a truncated update to the UC Office of the President and a memo was submitted to the Academic Senate.

The Academic Senate Divisional Bylaws for Membership to the FEC were reviewed and revised as noted below.

The FEC reviewed the Online Education Pilot Project and endorsed fully the concerns expressed in the letter written by Daniel Simmons on behalf of the Academic Council to President Yudof.

The FEC reviewed the proposal for Online Delivery of Course Evaluations (ESCI). The FEC strongly endorsed the rationale behind the plan, but advised caution in proceeding with its implementation. More specifically, since, as the report itself makes clear, ‘course evaluations are a significant component of faculty personnel cases’, the FEC indicated that significant input from the faculty in both design and development of the new system was needed before the plan should be launched. The FEC also noted the lack of specificity in the system design and development and expressed reservations that a fully considered system design, development and implementation would be possible on such an ambitious timeline (implementation anticipated ‘as early as Fall Quarter 2012’).

**FEC Membership and Election**

Subsequent to their election in Spring 2010, the HFA representative, Professor Bruce Robertson, and the MLPS representative, Professor Sreenivas Jammalamadaka, resigned from the FEC. Since the HFA had had a contested election of four nominees, the runner-up, Professor Robert Morstein-Marx, replaced Professor Robertson for the HFA two-year term. Professor Russell Revlin was appointed by the Academic Senate Committee on Committees as a replacement for Professor Jammalamadaka for a one-year term for MLPS. Stuart Smith withdrew from the committee for Winter quarter, and the Academic Senate Committee on Committees appointed Professor Geoff Raymond as the Division of Social Sciences replacement for that quarter.

Historically, L&S FEC membership has been a two-year term with staggered elections to ensure continuity and expertise. With the acquisition of research fellowships and administrative appointments, several members have had to truncate their multi-year FEC membership, resulting in elections for one-year terms that degrade continuity and efficiency. To address this, the Executive Committee voted to revise the duration of membership terms to three years instead of two, and in so doing aligned its membership terms with other Academic Senate Committees.
Additionally, the FEC voted to elect members to a three year term during a regular election whenever a vacancy occurs. The Faculty Legislature approved these changes, which will be implemented starting academic year 2012-13.

The FEC approved the following election results for six members of next year’s FEC:

- Stephanie LeMenager, English, for the two-year HFA seat
- Stephan F. Miescher, History, for the one-year HFA seat
- Scott Reid, Communication, for the two-year Social Sciences seat
- Steven Gaulin, Anthropology, for the one-year Social Sciences seat
- Peter Ford, Chemistry and Biochemistry, for the two-year MLPS seat
- Tod Kippin, Psychological and Brain Sciences, for the one-year MLPS seat

**Naming of the Harold J. Plous Award Recipient**
The FEC approved the selection of the 2011-12 Harold J. Plous Award winner: Assistant Professor Victor Rios, Department of Sociology.

**Members**
Professor Stefania Tutino (Chair – Winter and Spring quarter)
Associate Professor Laura Monahan (Acting Chair - Fall quarter)
Professor Stuart Smith
Professor Galen Stucky
Associate Professor Scott Reid
Professor Robert Morstein-Marx
Associate Professor Russell Revlin
Associate Professor Geoff Raymond (Winter quarter)
Executive Dean David Marshall (*ex officio*)
Dean of Undergraduate Education Mary Nisbet (*ex officio*)
Harrison Weber – Associate Students student representative