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 Scott Reid was elected FEC Chair at the first meeting on October 6, 2011, and offers this Annual Report for academic year 2011-12.

Executive Summary

During the academic year 2011-12, the FEC considered and offered opinions on a number of issues. These included rulings on curriculum changes, working with CUAPP and other campus committees to develop criteria for the evaluation of online courses, working with the Committee on Learning Outcomes and Assessment, academic program reviews, comments on broader campus and system-wide policy issues, new program reviews, an amendment to election procedures for the FEC, and the naming of the Harold J. Plous Award Recipient.

Two ongoing issues that are of concern to the FEC are the transfer admissions proposal by the UC Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS), and the evolution of policy and procedures for the evaluation and approval of online courses. In the case of BOARS, the FEC expressed its agreement with the proposal’s focus on major preparedness. This is especially important given the increasing cost of a UC education, and because the drop-out rates for transfer students at UCSB, as well as time to degree, need to be greatly improved. We hope that the BOARS proposal will ultimately enable us to find ways to aid transfer students to graduate in a timely manner.

Online courses remain an ongoing concern. The FEC has worked with CUAPP to agree upon a draft set of criteria for the evaluation of online courses that we will re-visit once the first round of online courses have been run. Our plan is to consult with instructors to find ways of addressing any concerns with the quality and implementation of online instruction, and to streamline the evaluation process. Beyond this, the FEC has begun to consider broader policy issues, and anticipates discussion with Undergraduate Council and other interested bodies.

The FEC has and continues to benefit greatly from the participation of ex-officio members Dean Marshall and Dean Nisbet, and looks forward to working with incoming Executive Dean Oliver.
**Issues and Actions**
The major topics of discussion of the FEC over the course of the academic year were the following:

- Curricular Matters
- Online Courses
- 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.

**Curricular Matters and Course Valuation**
The FEC reviewed and endorsed or approved (as appropriate) the following curricular changes.

1. Department of Physics revisions to the Physics Bachelor of Science degree requirements
2. Department of Computer Science elimination of the Undergraduate Pre-Major
3. Department of Computer Science suspension of admissions to the BA
4. Department of Earth Science
   a. Restructuring Undergraduate Degree
   b. combining EARTH 102A and EARTH 102 AL and EARTH 102C and 102 CL
   c. re-uniting EARTH 103 from 4 to 5 units
5. Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences changes to its entry requirements for Psychology and Biopsychology Majors
6. Department of Mathematics changes to Mathematics lower-division courses
7. Department of Theatre and Dance establishment of Minors in Theater and in Theater Production and Design
8. Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies changes to the Chinese Major
9. Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies changes to Japanese Major and Major Requirements. (Retroactively the department rescinded its request to establish a pre-Major; that change was dropped.)

Acting on a request from Dean Pierre Wiltzius, the FEC endorsed an Expedited Review of the Academic Unit Disestablishment Proposal for the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences. The FEC expects the actual proposal to contain specifics on how students currently enrolled in the program will be accommodated.
Committee on Learning Outcomes and Assessment (CLOA)
In fall 2011 the FEC was invited to send a representative to the Undergraduate Council’s ad hoc Committee on Learning Outcomes and Assessment (CLOA). As a part of the WASC Accreditation process, Faculty Assessment Advisers are assisting departments in drafting learning outcomes and assessment strategies which are submitted to CLOA for deliberation. The FEC rotated CLOA participation and responsibilities among its members to good effect and the efforts are expected to continue into the next academic year.

Online Courses
Five proposals for fully online courses reached the FEC this year, all as part of pilot projects. Review was hampered by a lack of foreknowledge and time pressures, and several of the courses were of the type that the FEC would have preferred not to see in a pilot program, namely sequential major courses. Ultimately the L&S Faculty Executive Committee endorsed all five courses for a one-time offering, with the understanding that significant assessment would be provided to the FEC and that future course proposals would arrive in the standard timeframe. Overall the FEC remains concerned about the scalability of these courses. The five were:

1) Chemistry 142A (Biochemistry)  
2) PSTAT 120A (Probability and Statistics)  
3) Geog 8 (Living with Global Warming)  
4) MCDB 108A (General Biochemistry)  
5) Geog 12 (Maps and Spatial Reasoning)

The FEC took a proactive approach to online courses, considering policies and implications in tandem with course review. Expressing the view that requests to offer online courses will only increase, the FEC was concerned with the establishment of consistent College and campuswide criteria, guidelines, and policies related to online courses (e.g., a standard course designation, enrollment of non-UC students, availability of technical support services, implications for residency requirement, satisfying accreditation agency) prior to their proliferation. To aid its discussions, the FEC reviewed online course approval practices and policies at sister UC campuses. In winter 2012, the FEC chair made overtures to the Undergraduate Council (UgC) ad hoc Committee on Online Education (COLE), considering that an efficient approach might be a joint committee or task force, such as was established in 2009-10 to deal with course re-uniting. During Summer 2012 the Chairs of FEC, CUAPP and the Undergraduate Council began a series of meetings to determine areas related to online instruction still needing Senate attention.

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

- Department of Anthropology  
- Department of Environmental Studies  
- Department of Film and Media Studies  
- Department of Sociology
The FEC also received and reviewed the final PRP Report for the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, and submitted nominations for members of the PRP Committee. The FEC took seriously its responsibilities to monitor and offer comments at various stages of the review process.

The Committee was given the opportunity to comment on the Review of the UC Observatories. While Committee members found the external review report to be interesting, the FEC felt this was outside its area of expertise and voted to note receipt of the report without offering comment.

**Comments on Policy Matters**

✓ Reviewing the preliminary and revised major-based transfer admission proposal authored by the UC Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) the FEC consistently expressed agreement with the proposal’s focus on major preparedness as a primary criterion in evaluating applications from transfer students, citing the increased likelihood of improving graduation rates and time to degree for transfer students. The FEC feels that the university has an ethical obligation to admit students who have the necessary preparations for success. While the FEC remained concerned about the lack of provision of funding and staffing to implement the changes, it nonetheless strongly supported the proposal.

✓ Although the Committee reviewed and discussed the methodology of the University Committee on Affirmative Action and Diversity (UCAAD) Salary Equity Study, the FEC decided to offer no comment.

✓ The FEC found misstatements and uncertainties during its review of proposed amendments to systemwide Senate Regulation 610 (units in residence). The FEC agreed that it could support the use of online courses approved and offered by UC Santa Barbara to satisfy academic residence requirements at UC Santa Barbara but did not support a similar use of system-wide courses approved and offered by other campuses. Further, the Committee recognized that other residence regulations would need to be reviewed in light of this change to determine the number of online courses that could be taken to satisfy degree requirements. Fundamentally, the FEC was concerned by the inaccuracies in the proposal and expressed satisfaction that the Divisional response suggested that the issue be sent back to UCEP for clarification.

✓ Responding to a request for systemwide review of APM 668, Negotiated Salary Program, the FEC recognized the need to develop measures to maintain market competitiveness in salary, but the committee did not endorse this approach, expressing concern that the proposal was an ad hoc measure for addressing a systemic issue, and that this solution is very likely to increase salary inequities across campuses and invite potential conflict of interest. Despite strong FEC and Santa Barbara Divisional opposition to the proposal, UCOP announced plans to pursue a pilot Negotiated Salary Program across several campuses. In a reversal, UC Office of the President announced in Feb 2012 that it would suspend (before implementation) the Pilot Project for the Negotiated Salary Program.

✓ The FEC took up the issue of using satellite classrooms as overflow facilities for large undergraduate classes. The Committee expressed serious concern that such arrangements
would dilute the quality of academic instruction. Noting that the practice is unregulated the group referred the issue to the Committee on Undergraduate Academic Programs and Policy via the Undergraduate Council, along with the FEC’s opinion on conditions and standards that should guide satellite classroom use. CUAPP responded, accepting most of the FECs recommendations and implementing a policy for use of overflow classrooms.

✓ The Committee wondered about the genesis of the adjustments to APM sections 010 (Academic Freedom), 015 (Faculty Code of Conduct), and 016 (University Policy on Faculty Conduct and the Administration of Discipline). While welcoming the presumed expansion of academic freedom in revisions to APM 010 and APM 015, the FEC questioned the vagueness and blanket coverage of “policy” in APM 016, as distinct from “rules and regulations.” For this reason, the FEC did not support the change to APM-016.

**New Programs and Re-naming**
✓ To maintain consistency with the name of the academic unit (which was changed in 1993) and the undergraduate major, the FEC unanimously supported the request for a simple name change in the Department of History of Art and Architecture, changing the name of the M.A. and Ph.D. degree programs from “Art History” to “History of Art and Architecture.”

✓ The FEC reviewed combined proposals from the Department of Statistics and Applied Probability for (a) a program of graduate studies in Actuarial Science for the M.S. Degree and (b) a proposal for a five year combined program for the B.S./M.S. degree in Actuarial Science. The proposals received broad support from the FEC; however, noting that core courses from another department were involved, the FEC included in its letter of support to the Graduate Council a request for a supportive statement from the Departments of Economics and Mathematics.

✓ The Committee unanimously supported the Department of Physics Proposal for Establishment of an Optional Emphasis in Astrophysics within the Physics Ph.D., noting that the proposal maintains the academic integrity of the program, that no new resources are requested, that the emphasis would be housed wholly within the proposing department, and that relevant faculty and the Graduate Division Dean have signaled their support.

✓ Noting that the request parallels the evolution of the field and a similar title change within the National Science Foundation, the FEC voted to endorse the simple name change of the Department of Anthropology major emphasis from “Physical Anthropology” to “Biological Anthropology.”

✓ To maintain consistency with the name of the academic unit and the major (which was changed in May 2011), the FEC unanimously supported changing the name from “Minor in Geological Sciences” to “Minor in Earth Science”.

✓ In discussing the proposal to establish a Five-Year Combined Bachelor's-Master's Degree Program to Link the B.S. Degree in Pharmacology with the M.A. Degree in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology with an Emphasis in Pharmacology and Biotechnology, the FEC noted the very small number of anticipated students (2-4 per year). Philosophically the FEC had
no objections, as the proposal is to link existing programs. The FEC sent its endorsement to the Graduate Council, noting the clerical error in Appendix B- UG program advising sheet, which the department subsequently corrected.

✓ The FEC felt the proposal for an Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Black Studies presented a substantive academic option for graduate students and found it to be a viable mechanism for institutionalizing existing interdisciplinary ties on campus. The FEC voted unanimously to endorse the proposal.

✓ Recognizing the unique nature and intellectual merits of the proposed Interdepartmental PhD Program in Dynamical Neuroscience, which is founded on modeling or computational neuroscience vs a biochemical approach, and the employment potential for graduates, the FEC voted to endorse the proposal.

Centers and Institutes
✓ Noting that internal resources for the proposed Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Fluids are to come from the College of Engineering and finding no objections to the proposed Center, the FEC voted by acclamation to endorse it. A memo was sent to Divisional Senate Chair Henning Bohn.

✓ The FEC registered no objections to establishment of a Confucius Institute at UC Santa Barbara.

✓ The FEC offered comments on the proposals to establish a Technology Management Program and a Professional Master’s degree in Technology Management (MTM).

✓ The Committee reviewed and offered no comment on the Department of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology Proposed Center in Nanomedicine.

✓ The FEC reviewed and noted the Five-Year Perspective Update 2012

Naming of the Harold J. Plous Award Recipient
The FEC approved the selection of the 2012-13 Harold J. Plous Award winner: Assistant Professor Peter Alagona, who holds a joint appointment with History and Environmental Studies.

FEC Elections
The FEC submitted a technical correction to the Committee on Rules Jurisdiction and Elections (RJE) to rectify an omission when the FEC bylaws were revised in May 2011. The correction enables the new three-year elected term length for FEC members to be effective spring 2011, as originally intended by the FEC. RJE requested that Chair Reid take the correction to the Faculty Legislature, which approved it at its meeting on April 26, 2012, with the understanding that no member would serve more than three consecutive years.

As a result, Stephan Miescher opted for the extended term. Tod Kippin and Steven Gaulin, both elected to one-year terms in spring 2011, had a similar option but prior commitments
prevented their continued participation in the FEC, and their positions representing MLPS and Social Sciences, respectively, were opened for election. As stated in the revised bylaws, henceforth, all FEC elections will be for three-year terms.

The FEC certified the following election results for two members of next year’s FEC:

- Helen Couclelis, Professor of Geography, for a three-year term representing the Division of Mathematics, Life and Physical Sciences
- Grace Chang, Associate Professor of Feminist Studies, for a three-year term representing the Division of Social Sciences

During the summer of 2012, Prof Chang informed Summer Chair Scott Reid that she will be on sabbatical leave in 2012-13, and Prof Stephanie LeMenager requested to be released from FEC service during 2012-13 in light of newly-funded research projects. The Chair is in communication with the Divisional Committee on Committees to appoint interim one-year replacements in both Social Sciences and Humanities and Fine Arts.

**2011-12 Members**
Peter Ford, Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry  
Steven Gaulin, Professor, Anthropology  
Tod Kippin, Associate Professor, Psychological and Brain Sciences (Secretary)  
Stephanie LeMenager, Associate Professor, English  
Stephan Miescher, Associate Professor, History  
**Scott Reid, Associate Professor, Communication (Chair)**  
Beau Shaw, A.S. Student Advocate General (A.S. student representative)  
David Marshall, Executive Dean, College of Letters and Science (*ex officio*)  
Mary Nisbet, Dean, Undergraduate Education (*ex officio*)