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.”

2012-13 Members
Helen Couclelis, Professor, Geography
Peter Ford, Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry
Steven Gaulin, Professor, Anthropology
Stephan Miescher, Associate Professor, History
Robert Morstein-Marx, Professor, Classics
Scott Reid, Associate Professor, Communication (Chair)
Yoel Hailie, A.S. Student Advocate General (A.S. student representative)
Melvin Oliver, Executive Dean, College of Letters and Science (ex officio)
Mary Nisbet, Dean, Undergraduate Education (ex officio)

Professor Scott Reid was re-elected as FEC Chair at the meeting on October 4, 2012, and offers this Annual Report for the academic year 2012-13.

Executive Summary

During the academic year 2012-13, 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, and the naming of the Harold J. Plous Award Recipient.

As before, online courses remain an ongoing concern. The FEC worked with CUAPP to establish a draft set criteria for the evaluation of online courses. This has aided the procedures for evaluating online courses, but a number of challenges remain to be addressed. UCSB has yet to develop an overarching policy on key issues in online education: Should we set a limit on the number of online courses that students can take? Should online courses be restricted to UCSB students, should they be open to the UC, or broader still? How can the integrity of high stakes assessment be assured? Given the bureaucratic structure of our university, I anticipate that these and other issues will take a very long time to solve.
**Issues and Actions**
The major topics of discussion for the FEC over the course of the academic year were the following:

- Curricular Matters, Name Changes, and New Programs
- Online Courses
- Academic Program Reviews
- Accreditation Issues
- Policy Matters
- Annual Awards
- FEC Election

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

**Curricular Matters, Name Changes, and New Programs**

The FEC reviewed the following academic changes and, in some cases after adjustment to the original proposal, endorsed or approved the changes.

1. Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences discontinuance of the academic programs and the disestablishment of the department.
2. Department of Global and International Studies establishment of a PhD program in Global Studies.
3. Department of Comparative Literature changes to the PreMajor and Major
4. Department of Art course designator change from ARTST to ART
5. Department of Film and Media Studies course designator change from FLMST to FAMST
6. Department of Earth Science name change for the M.S. and PhD in Geological Sciences to M.S. and Ph.D. in Earth Science
7. Department of Earth Science discontinuation of the M.S. in Geophysics
8. The Department of Music discontinuation of the Bachelors of Music in Guitar.
9. Department of Theater and Dance changes to the Dance B.A.
10. Department of Political Science changes to the Undergraduate Major
11. Department of Feminist Studies changes to Major and Minor requirements
12. Department of French and Italian revisions to the French Major
13. Department of French and Italian revisions to the Italian Major
14. Interdisciplinary Studies (INT) wording changes to Major Sheet to add clarity and to state learning outcomes.
15. Discontinuance of the Optional Interdisciplinary Doctoral Emphasis in Human Development
16. Establishment of an Optional Interdisciplinary PhD Emphasis in Bioengineering
17. Establishment of an Optional interdisciplinary Ph.D. emphasis in writing
18. Technology Management Program proposals to establish a graduate degree program and an academic unit.

* Other proposals were returned to the originating departments for revision or reformulation.
Responding to the Department of Media Arts and Technology request to eliminate the emphases within the master’s degrees and to suspend admissions to the M.A., the FEC felt that the proposal did not contain sufficient information for the Committee to make a full determination and the Committee suggested issues that the Graduate Council should explore before making its decision.

The Committee formally adopted the drop deadline for lower division Writing Program courses.

The FEC requested that the Undergraduate Education Dean review and ensure that existing Interdisciplinary Studies (INT) courses follow instructor guidelines established in 2009 and further asked her to review and bring into alignment with policy INT courses currently available only to high school students (not open to UCSB students).

Psychological and Brain Sciences signaled an interest in using a tool available via the GauchoSpace course management system to give its high stakes exams online, especially for large enrollment courses. S. Reid indicated that FEC would want to review such a request, so there is an expectation that the department will be forwarding a proposal.

The FEC endorsed the International Agreement between the UCSB Chemistry Department and RWTH, Aachen (Germany).

The Committee endorsed Renewal of the International Agreement between the University of Iceland and UC Santa Barbara.

Student-Initiated Democratic Education (SIDE) Program proposal - Although the FEC rejected the notion of having undergraduates teach undergraduates as a mechanism for improving course availability at UCSB, it did entertain the idea of undergraduate students teaching. Noting serious problems with the proposal as written, the Committee outlined areas that would need to be revamped. Most importantly, the FEC felt any such proposal needed to include faculty oversight. The Committee would prefer to see academic departments directly involved in such a program.

Online Courses
The FEC worked closely with the Chair of CUAPP to standardize a campus academic approval process for online courses, culminating in a joint meeting that included the Engineering FEC. Although there is very little consensus on the threshold from hybrid to online course, the relevant committees did agree on a standardized process, which was distributed from the Senate to UCSB faculty.

Overall, the FEC articulated the need for guidelines at the campus or College level related to online coursework and the Committee submitted its findings and considerations to the Executive Dean of the College, who assembled a faculty task force to develop a College vision for utilizing technology to enhance student learning.

The FEC was petitioned for renewal of the existing five UCSB online courses. Citing its desire for more data on the effectiveness of online courses and with the understanding that Summer
Sessions intended a two-year pilot, the FEC granted its endorsement for a second offering of the following online courses for Summer 2013:

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

Dance W 36 was added to the Summer Sessions online pilot project and, after clarification from the instructor, the FEC endorsed Dance W 36 for Summer 2013. The FEC expects to review these courses in Fall 2013, based on further assessment data provided by the instructors.

The discrepancy between UCOE expectations and campus procedures was apparent in dealing with the Geog W 12 petition for indefinite approval. Citing the evolution of campus online education policies as well as the absence of course assessment data from the instructor, the FEC opted to endorse the course for limited future offerings. Ultimately Geog W 12 was endorsed through fall 2013, with the FEC re-iterating its expectation of receiving evaluation information during the fall quarter and its intention to fully assess the course at that time.

**Academic Program Reviews**

The FEC participated in the academic program reviews of the following departments/units:

- Department of Earth Science
- Department of Art
- Department of Asian American Studies

The FEC also received the PRP Final Report for the Department of Sociology, and submitted nominations for members of the PRP Committee.

The Committee was given the opportunity to comment on the review of the Department of Counseling Clinical and School Psychology in the Graduate School of Education, confining itself to a focus on the minor, which impacts Letters and Science undergraduates. The FEC also provided feedback on the review of the College of Creative Studies, given the intersections of courses and instructors between the two units.

Additionally the FEC participated in the ad hoc review of the UCSB-SDSU Joint Doctoral Program in Geography.

**Accreditation Issues**

The FEC worked on several accreditation-related items throughout this year, including a review of articulated GE outcomes and development of a campus General Guide for General Education; membership on the Ad Hoc Committee on Learning Outcomes (CLO); and review and comment on the draft campus EER report.

**Policy Matters**
Upon reviewing the Systemwide Library and Scholarly Communication Policy (Open Access Policy) the Committee expressed reservations on several fronts: ethical, legal, budgetary, and procedural.

The FEC provided enthusiastic support for the Rebenching Report, noting that it brings sister campuses more closely into alignment.

Expressing some surprise that such a reasonable policy was not already in place, the Committee voted to support the revised APM 700 (Leaves of Absence/General).

The Committee expressed a desire for a clearer rationale for the new APM 430 (Visiting Scholars). However, recognizing that the category did not presently exist and the new category would not preclude the university from hosting compensated scholars under pre-existing categories, the FEC voted in favor of the proposed new policy.

Because APM 241 (Appointment of directors of multi-campus research units) deals with cross-campus entities, the FEC concurred with the proposal that appointment of directors would be made above the campus level.

Given that the FEC did not support the change to APM-016 (University Policy on Faculty Conduct and the Administration of Discipline) in the previous year, it had no objections that APM 016 had been dropped, along with proposed changes to APM 010 (Academic Freedom). The Committee noted the existing changes to APM 015 (Faculty Code of Conduct) and recognized that the re-review circulated in fall 2012 provided crucial background that had been missing previously.

The FEC noted proposed revisions to APM Section IV, Salary Administration without comment.

The FEC felt the Proposal to Adopt an Earlier Application Opening Date was not their area of expertise.

In considering the report outlining options to fund Undergraduate Financial Aid and to guide a UC financial aid funding strategy, members noted that all options were contingent upon a rise in tuition. The committee was overall pleased with the more comprehensive assessment of parental resources, but could not endorse any of the suggested options, and indicated that it would support a strategy that would maintain access to UC, particularly for low and middle income students who have earned admission to the university.

And more locally,

The FEC provided its strongest endorsement of the proposed policy on scheduling courses within the academic curriculum and felt the policy could benefit from even more strenuous application. The Committee encouraged development of tools so that utilization statistics can be invoked to obligate departments to spread courses beyond prime-time.

Noting that mechanisms exist within departments to further determine appropriate membership for such committees, the FEC endorsed the proposal to amend Divisional Senate
Regulations 350D.2 and 300B.1 to allow members of the Academic Senate (v. limited to ladder faculty) to be members of or to co-chair Masters or PhD committees.

- The satellite classroom guidelines proposed in January 2012 by CUAPP were finalized for distribution to Departments and relevant offices on campus.

- The FEC was made aware of a memo from the UCSB Committee on Admissions, Enrollment, and Relations with Schools (CAERS), proposing an implementation plan for the new BOARS transfer admissions policy which requires consideration of preparation in the major when making transfer admissions decisions. The FEC expressed concern about the short timeline outlined in the memo and requested that the Senate include the FEC in the comment phase of this proposal that directly affects Letters and Science academic departments.

- The FEC unanimously endorsed the proposal from the UC Santa Barbara Registrar’s Office to remove redundancy from the diploma in cases where the degree matches the major (e.g., Bachelor of Music in Music). The proposal included letters of support from all affected departments.

**Annual Awards**
The committee reviewed and affirmed the selection of the student and instructor Mochizuki Award winners from the Departments of Mathematics and Asian American Studies.

The FEC authorized a Plous Selection Sub-Committee and approved the selection of the 2013-14 Harold J. Plous Award winner: Assistant Professor Theodore Kim, in the Department of Media Arts and Technology.

**FEC Elections**
Both Peter Ford and Scott Reid completed their FEC terms. Robert Morstein-Marx completed the term for Stephanie LeMenager. Grace Chang declined to serve her elected term to the FEC. These vacancies, one in MLPS, one in HFA, and two in the Social Sciences, were advertised to faculty and a call for nominations was issued.

Nominations were received for all vacancies and, where there was a contested vacancy, faculty in the respective division voted to select their FEC representative.

The FEC certified the following results for next year’s FEC:

- Steven Buratto, Professor of Chemistry & Biochemistry, for a three-year term representing the Division of Mathematics, Life and Physical Sciences
- Peter Bloom, Film and Media Studies, for a three-year term representing the Division of Humanities and Fine Arts; however, due to sabbatical leave he will be unable to assume the FEC role until Winter 2014.
- John Foran, Professor of Sociology, for a three-year term representing the Division of Social Sciences
- Diane Fujino, Professor of Asian American Studies, for a three-year term representing the Division of Social Sciences.
The Chair is in communication with the Divisional Committee on Committees to appoint an interim replacement for the Humanities and Fine Arts.

In an effort to ensure active and interested participation from its student member, the FEC enacted a procedural change to the selection method of the student, effective academic year 2013-14. Rejecting models wherein the FEC would appoint its own student representative and seeking to ensure that the member is active in student government, the FEC opted to solicit three candidates from the Associated Students. Applications will include a statement of interest and students will be interviewed to ensure they understand the committee’s role and meeting time. Final selection among the three candidates will be made by the FEC. The Executive Committee values student representation and feels this process will help to ensure active student participation in the years ahead.