

UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

To the Faculty Legislature, Santa Barbara Division:

Executive Summary

Purpose (per Bylaw 80): To set standards for and policy on undergraduate education and to provide advice and consent on all matters of policy, planning, and practice that impact the quality of undergraduate programs and undergraduate students' educational experiences at UCSB.

Issues of General Concern to Faculty:

- The Undergraduate Council (UgC) shared its concerns with Executive Vice Chancellor David Marshall regarding the following issues: problems associated with impacted majors; the need for more effective advising and enhanced academic support services; and the potential for improved coordination in areas of shared concern between the Student Affairs and Academic Affairs Divisions. The EVC affirmed that strategic enrollment planning is among his top priorities and ensured the Council that these issues will be taken into consideration within the context of campuswide planning endeavors.
- Following extensive consultation with all stakeholders, UgC lifted its previously imposed suspension of admission to the College of Creative Studies Literature Program, which will reopen as the *Writing and Literature Program*, under a new administrative structure, with a substantially revised curriculum.
- UgC endorsed several recommendations of the Committee on Courses and General Education and the L&S Faculty Executive Committee regarding revision of existing policy and procedures for review of online course proposals. The resulting changes have enhanced the overall process for oversight and assessment of online instruction at UCSB.

UgC held 15 regularly scheduled 90-minute meetings and consulted with relevant Senate committees, academic deans, and other campus administrators on numerous issues.

Local Business

Academic Program Reviews

In cooperation with the Program Review Panel, UgC participated in the academic program reviews of the following academic units.

1. Black Studies
2. Psychological and Brain Sciences
3. Religious Studies
4. Theater and Dance

UgC responded to requests from the Executive Vice Chancellor regarding membership on the Program Review Panel and departments to be reviewed during the 2016-17 program review cycle.

Academic Proposals

UgC granted preliminary approval of the following actions and recommended final approval by the Faculty Legislature:

1. Transfer of the undergraduate degree program in Middle East Studies from the Department of Global Studies to the Department of Religious Studies
2. Renaming of the College of Creative Studies BS in Computer Science to BS in Computing, effective Fall 2015
1. Discontinuation of the BA in Psychology, effective Fall 2019, with the stipulation that this degree program will not be open to incoming freshmen as of Fall 2016
3. Establishment of the BS in Psychological and Brain Science, effective Fall 2016
4. Renaming of the CCS BA in Literature to BA in Writing and Literature, effective Fall 2015
5. Establishment of a Minor in Art with interdisciplinary tracks in: Art; Art: Public Practice; and Art and Technology, effective Fall 2015

UgC granted final approval of the following actions:

1. Reopening of admission to the CCS Literature Program, effective February 12, 2015
2. Revision of the administrative structure and curriculum of the CCS Writing and Literature Program, effective Fall 2015
3. Restructuring of the BA in Anthropology, including the establishment of an Archeological Emphasis, effective Fall 2015
4. Revision of curricular requirements for completion of the following undergraduate degree programs, effective Fall 2015:
 - BA in Art
 - BA in Chinese
 - BA in Comparative Literature
 - BA in History
 - BA, BM, and Minor in Music
 - BS in Aquatic Biology
 - BS in Ecology and Evolution
 - BS in Physiology
 - BS in Zoology
 - BS in Computer Engineering
 - BS in Computer Science
 - BS in Electrical Engineering
 - BS in Mathematics
 - BS in Mathematic Sciences
 - BS in Financial Mathematics and Statistics
5. Revision of requirements for completion of the BS in Biopsychology, effective Fall 2016
6. Revision of program learning outcomes for the BS in Chemical Engineering and the BS in Mechanical Engineering

UgC endorsed the following actions:

1. Renaming of the Department of Germanic, Slavic and Semitic Studies to Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies, effective Winter 2015
2. Change in status and renaming of the Global and International Studies Program to Department of Global Studies
3. Renaming of the MA in Global and International Studies to MA in Global Studies

Campus Proposals and Initiatives

Along with other Senate groups, UgC responded to the Senate Chair regarding a wide variety of campus matters. Brief comments on some of these are included below.

Course Waitlist System

UgC coordinated an effort to establish campuswide policy on the use of UCSB's recently launched, automated course waitlist system. In consultation with the Senate leadership, Academic Deans, Registrar, and Faculty Executive Committees, a policy document was prepared by the Council and distributed on June 3 for a final round of review. UgC will conclude its negotiations and circulate waitlist guidelines to academic departments in Fall 2015.

Use of Registration Blocks to Enforce Mandatory Requirements

UgC oversaw the review of a proposal from the Division of Student Affairs regarding the use of registration blocks to ensure that all students complete several types of mandatory risk education. In response to concerns raised by UgC and other reviewers, a revised implementation plan was submitted and ultimately endorsed by the Council.

Partial Fee Reduction Proposal

UgC enthusiastically endorsed a proposal to allow a partial fee reduction for graduating seniors who have 10 or fewer units to complete.

International Students

UgC was represented at a meeting convened for the purpose of discussing various matters related to increased enrollment of international students at UCSB. Relevant stakeholders from across campus were present. No action items resulted and there are no current plans to reconvene this particular group, but it was agreed that there is a need for ongoing discussion of support services for international students, instances of considerably inadequate language preparation, competition for access to courses in some of the impacted majors that many international students choose to pursue, and future enrollment targets for international students.

Proposal to Establish a Fund for Instructional Transformation

An ad hoc committee consisting of representatives from UgC and the Committee on Library, Information and Instructional Resources (CLIIR) drafted a proposal for establishment of a new Fund for Instructional Transformation (FIT) that would complement the existing Instructional Improvement Program (IIP). While the UC system has recently become heavily invested in innovations linked to

online instruction, with the exception of the IIP program and idiosyncratic funding from departments, there is no explicit parallel source of investment in *on-campus* delivery of instruction. The ad hoc committee envisioned the potential for FIT to support innovations in on-campus instruction that are outside the mandate of the IIP. While UgC members were supportive of forwarding such a proposal for administrative review, members of CLIIR requested that the FIT proposal be tabled until Fall 2015.

Undergraduate Research Awards

A select group of UgC members reviewed nomination files and chose the recipients of the *Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research* and the *Fiona Goodchild Award for Excellence as a Graduate Student Mentor of Undergraduate Research*.

Systemwide Business

As UCSB's representative on the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP), Ann Plane reported to and consulted with the Council regarding issues under discussion by UCEP. Phillip Conrad served as an alternate.

Benjamin Brecher represented UCSB on the University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE) and reported to the Council on items addressed by the committee.

Along with other Senate councils and committees, members of UgC were invited to review the following systemwide issues:

- Proposed Revised APM - 133-17-g-j; APM -210-1-c & -d; APM - 220-18-b; and APM - 760-30-a
- Proposed Revised APM - 080 and APM – 330
- Proposed New UC Policy on Open Access
- Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence – Proposed Revised Presidential Policy
- Senate Bylaw 128.D.2 (Vice Chairs) – Proposed Amendments
- UC Policy on Copyright and Fair Use
- Draft Guidelines for Pilot Program to accept Equity for Access to University Facilities or Services

Revision of Senate Bylaw 182

UgC also considered the proposed revision of Senate Bylaw 182: University Committee on International Education. Based on expansion in the scope of international activities in which UC faculty and students participate and substantial increases in the number of international students enrolled on UC campuses, UgC supported the proposed corresponding expansion of UCIE's purview to ensure sufficient oversight and to allow the Committee to initiate certain types of policy proposals as deemed appropriate. However, UgC is mindful that several Senate groups share interest in matters related to international students and activities, and caution was expressed regarding the need for broad consultation on issues that overlap into the purviews of multiple stakeholders.

Undergraduate Council Members:

Benjamin Brecher

David Cleveland
Kip Fulbeck
Andrew Griffin
John Latto
Fernando Lopez-Alvez
Stephan Miescher
Sumita Pennathur
Ann Plane
Norbert Reich
James Roney
Jeffrey Stoppel
Douglas Thrower
Yuan-fang Wang
Phillip Conrad, Vice Chair
Richard Startz, Chair

Non-Senate Academic Representative: Dorothy Mullin

Associated Students Representative: Tara Clark

Graduate Student Association Representative: Jason Hopkins (F); Emma Parker (W,S)

UgC Advisor: Debra Blake