COMMITTEE ON COURSES AND GENERAL EDUCATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

To the Faculty Legislature, Santa Barbara Division:

Executive Summary

Purpose (per Bylaw 92): To authorize, supervise, and regulate all undergraduate courses and monitor the General Education Program.

Issues of General Concern to Faculty:

- The Committee approved 27 General Education (GE) course proposals.
- The Committee considered 8 proposals to create or renew online courses.

CCGE held 15 regularly scheduled 90-minute meetings during the 2016-17 academic year and consulted as needed with faculty executive committees, academic deans, and other campus administrators. The Committee also benefited from the participation of regular consultants from the Registrar’s Office, College of Letters and Science Advising, and College of Engineering Advising. The Chair of CCGE met periodically with the Chairs of the Undergraduate Council and the Committee on Admissions, Enrollment and Relations with Schools to discuss shared undergraduate concerns.

Recurring Business

Course Requests

CCGE has final approval authority over the establishment, modification, and discontinuation of all undergraduate courses. Individual members are delegated the authority to review and act on course requests via the Master Course Approval (MCA) System, and forward any requests about which they are uncertain for full committee review and final action by the Committee Chair. Several hundred requests are reviewed each year.

CCGE approved 4 online course proposals, 2 of which were approved for two offerings, and the remaining 2 were approved for two years. The offering departments may request renewed approval, based on assessment of the effectiveness of the initial offerings.

CCGE approved the renewal of 4 online course proposals, 1 for three years, 1 for two years, and the remaining 2 in perpetuity.

The Committee approved 27 General Education course proposals, 3 UCSB Extension proposals, and several requests for changes to the final exam schedule.

Associate Appointment Proposals

CCGE reviewed 185 Associate appointment proposals, as compared to 174 in 2015-16 and 185 in 2014-15. CCGE approved all of the appointment proposals. In several instances, the Committee Chair contacted the chair of the proposing department to discuss concerns about below average performance
in previous teaching assignments. In some cases, the Committee Chair requested additional evidence of the candidate’s qualifications and/or recommended individual faculty mentoring. In some cases, modifications of the proposed syllabus were requested to conform with General Education requirements.

Local Campus Issues

Proposed Changes to the Depth Requirement in the College of Engineering

CCGE was asked by the Undergraduate Council to consider a proposal from the College of Engineering to clarify its Depth Requirement and expand the eligible subject areas in order to increase flexibility for students. The Committee voiced no objections to the proposed changes.

Changes to the French Major and Minor

CCGE was asked by the Undergraduate Council to review a proposal from the Department of French and Italian to change the level of an advanced composition course from lower division to upper division. The department noted that the focus, assignments, and expectations of the course had evolved over time, and that the designation as an upper-division course would be more appropriate. CCGE voiced no objections to the proposed change, and ultimately approved the new course in the Master Course Approval (MCA) system.

Supercourse Challenges and Options

CCGE was asked to perform a preliminary review of the Supercourse Challenges and Options report, which was prepared by the Supercourse Workgroup in the summer of 2016. The purpose of the report was to outline the challenges associated with managing supercourses at UCSB, and provide recommendations for potential changes to policy and procedures. The Committee held a number of in-depth discussions, and ultimately suggested that the Registrar’s Office and the Academic Senate meet to further refine the report with the aim of presenting a revised draft for full Senate review.

Proposal for Pre-Approval of UCEAP Courses for General Education (GE) Credit

CCGE was asked to perform a preliminary review of a proposal for pre-approval of UCEAP courses for GE credit. The pre-approvals would be based on a list of courses from various institutions that were approved for GE credit by petition over the last five years. The Committee provided feedback to the initiators and recommended a number of revisions prior to a full Senate review.

Systemwide Issues

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

1. Proposed Revisions to APM 015 and 016, and Conforming Amendments to Senate Bylaw 336
2. Draft Presidential Policy on International Activities
3. Proposed Revisions to Bylaw 182. University Committee on International Education
4. Proposed Revised Academic Personnel Manual Section 190, Appendix G, Program Description: Retirement Contributions on Academic Appointee Summer Salary
6. University Committee on Educational Policy investigation of policies and practices for student-led courses
7. Revised Presidential Policy on Electronic Information Security (IS-3)

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