To be received and placed on file:

The Committee on Preparatory Education met three times during the 2014-2015 academic year.

The Riverside Division of the Committee on Preparatory Education was represented on the Universitywide Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE) by Bill Gary. The Committee was updated by Professor Gary at each meeting as to the issues being discussed at the Systemwide level.

The Committee undertook its regular review of the Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) program. The Director of the University Writing Program and Ex Officio of the Committee, John Briggs, provided the Committee with an overview of the program and presented a report documenting the outcomes of the program for the 2013-2014 academic year. The reported documented that 54% of incoming freshmen at UCR had satisfied the ELWR and the other 46% placed in entry-level writing courses and the great majority of the latter made good progress during their freshmen year. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the report and it was reported on the Fall Division meeting agenda.

The Committee reviewed the membership charge of the Committee and a recommendation made by the Senate Chair to remove the Registrar from their role as an administrative representative to the Committee as the nature of the Registrar’s functions no longer fall in the area of preparatory education. The Committee commented that the Registrar could always be invited to meetings in the future as a guest if their consultation was needed. The Committee unanimously voted to approve a change to the bylaws that would remove the Registrar as an administrative representative to the Committee.

The Committee reviewed another recommendation from the Senate Chair relating to the membership charge of the Committee to remove ex officio’s voting privileges. The Committee questioned the rationale for this recommendation and invited the Senate Chair to attend the Committee’s May 7, 2015 meeting to discuss his rationale for the recommendation. The Senate Chair discussed with the Committee his reasons for the recommendation which included a potential conflict of interest between administration and the faculty and the fact that ex officios on the Committee out number appointed faculty members. The Committee requested a report for the first meeting in Fall 2015 to include the Sturgis Parliamentary Procedures definition of an ex officio, the role of ex officios on Systemwide Committees, and language in Senate bylaws and regulations regarding the role of ex officios on committees before a decision is made.

The Committee reviewed the proposed amendments to Senate Bylaw 12.D.2, which would make the vice chairs of all standing Systemwide committees at-large members. The Committee voted to unanimously abstain from commenting on the proposed changes as they did not directly affect the Committee.

Coleen Macnamara, Chair
Kim Devlin
Bill Gary
Jacob Greenstein
Akula Venkatram
John Briggs, Ex Officio
Katie DeFea, Ex Officio
Peter Graham, Ex Officio
Michael McKibben, Ex Officio
Chinya Ravishankar, Ex Officio
Trelynd Bradley-Bowles, ASUCR Rep.