

**COMMITTEE ON PREPARATORY EDUCATION
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE DIVISION
DECEMBER 6, 2016**

To be received and placed on file:

The Committee on Preparatory Education met twice during the 2015-2016 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 member 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 2014-2015 academic year. The report documented that 62% of entering freshmen at UCR had satisfied the ELWR before registering as full time students. It was reported that the biggest factor in this improvement over previous years had to do with a 5% increase in the state-wide AWPE pass rate. The remaining 38% of entering freshmen placed in entry-level writing courses and the great majority made good progress once they arrived at UCR. The Committee voted to approve the report and it was reported on the December 1, 2015 Division meeting agenda.

The Committee reviewed the proposed changes to Academic Senate Regulations (SR) 417 and 621 that were recommended by the Systemwide Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools. The proposed changes to SR 417 strikes the word “community” so that all college/university units are treated the same and the proposed changes to SR 621 allow for a fuller suite of standardized examinations for which the University awards unit credit. The Committee had no concerns with the proposed changes and voted to support the changes.

The Committee continued discussions on the recommendation from the Senate Chair to remove the Committee’s ex officio member’s voting privileges as the ex officio members of the Committee currently outnumber the appointed faculty members. The Committee recommended that ex officio member and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Jim Sandoval be removed as an ex officio and instead be invited to attend meetings as a guest when consultation is needed. The Committee discussed potential conflicts of interest that ex officio members might have as members of the administration and the possibility that they may be able to sway appointed members to voting in favor of issues that are beneficial to the administration. The Committee opined that ex officios should be asked before voting on issues if they have a conflict of interest and if they do, members should be asked to recuse themselves from the review of the issue and voting. Additionally, the Committee contended that if there is an important issue to be discussed and ex officio members outnumber appointed faculty members, then the discussion should be tabled until a meeting can be held that has a least equal representation of appointed faculty members and ex officio members. The Committee voted to retain the voting privilege for ex officio members and remove the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs as an ex officio member on the Committee. The Committee sent a memo to the Senate Chair documenting the rationale for the decision to retain ex officio member’s voting privilege.

Coleen Macnamara, Chair
Kim Devlin
Bill Gary, UCOPE Rep.
Jacob Greenstein
Tao Jiang

John Briggs, Ex Officio
Eddie Comeaux, Ex Officio
Peter Graham, Ex Officio
Michael McKibben, Ex Officio
James Sandoval, Ex Officio
Sharon Walker, Ex Officio
Mariela Delgado, ASUCR Rep.