COMMITTEE ON PREPARATORY EDUCATION
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE DIVISION
DECEMBER 4, 2018

To be received and placed on file:

The Committee on Preparatory Education met two times during the 2017-2018 academic year.

The Riverside Division of the Committee on Preparatory Education was represented on the Universitywide Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE) by the Committee Chair Deborah Willis. The Committee was updated by Professor Willis 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 2016-2017 academic year. The report documented that 58% of entering freshmen at UCR had satisfied the ELWR before registering as full time students. The remaining 42% 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 5, 2017 Division meeting agenda.

The Committee reviewed UCR’s draft institutional report to WASC and were generally supportive of the report. The Committee did recommend that the report be updated to include information about the contributions of UCR’s preparatory education programs in composition and mathematics to showcase student success in these areas. The Committee also recommended that the section on general education be updated to include documentation on the attention to assessment that has been made on the campus and document how the campus is working to review the issue. Lastly, the Committee recommended several editorial corrections to the report.

The Committee reviewed the proposal to rename the Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education’s title to the Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education and was supportive of the proposal. The Committee did note concern for potential confusion with the proposed new title and the Dean of Students position, which does not have academic authority, as students confuse this position with the Associate/Divisional Deans in the Colleges who have actual academic authority.

The Committee reviewed a proposal from the University Writing Program to encourage incoming Freshmen to enroll in a Fall Quarter Entry-Level course (ENGL 004) if they have not taken the Analytical Writing Placement Examination by mid-September. Untested students who have not passed the Entry-Level Requirement by other means (e.g. with a passing AP score) would be informed of this option in late September, at the close of regular testing season, so that campus incentives for students to test during the summer would be preserved. The goal of the proposal would be to accelerate untested students’ progress toward completion of the Entry-Level Requirement. The Committee was supportive of the proposal and recommended that the Colleges remind students of the options available to students to satisfy the requirement at orientation.

Committee member Sara Lapan from the Department of Mathematics provided the Committee with an update on math placement and preparation at UCR.

The Committee reviewed the UCR 5-Year Planning Perspectives for 2018-2023 and did not note any concerns pertaining to the charge of the Committee on Preparatory Education.
Deborah Willis, Chair & UCOPE Rep.
Anthony Jerry
Tao Jiang
Sara Lapan
Stephen Wimpenny
John Briggs, Ex Officio
Pete Sadler, Ex Officio
Alicia Arrizón, Ex Officio
Michael McKibben, Ex Officio
Marko Princevac, Ex Officio
Joseph Solon, ASUCR Rep.