

October 21, 2004

SENATE CHAIR ALISON GALLOWAY

Re: Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Educational
Effectiveness Review Draft Essays

Dear Alison,

The Committee on Educational Policy reviewed the draft essays for the WASC Educational Effectiveness Review during 3 meetings in October. The Committee is exceedingly positive about the essays, and in particular noted the high level of substance now present in the WASC materials. CEP has 4 substantive comments.

- CEP strongly supports the four recommendations concerning the strategic deployment of resources. In fact, the committee wishes that these principles could have been “discovered” 10 or 20 years ago to assist us in planning. In any case, as these will be new principles for the campus, the essay should comment on their newness and propose a plan for adopting these four principles and inviting them into campus culture. Only after these principles are a widely known and confirmed goal can they be effectively implemented.
- CEP notes that while the Senate and Administration jointly and regularly review the undergraduate academic programs, there is no similar joint review of the Divisions, i.e., the 4 academic divisions (Arts, Humanities, Physical and Biological Sciences, Social Sciences), School of Engineering, UCSC Extension, Undergraduate Education, and Graduate Studies. Without regular review of the Divisions, assessment and integration of academic program reviews across departments and within divisions is not possible.
- CEP notes a general lack of comparative financial information in the review process of programs, and of course also in the non-extant divisional reviews. CEP strongly supports the emphasis on the use of data in planning. One great pool of existing data that concerns CEP is the course and instructor evaluations. It is time for UCSC to join the computer age, and to enable the presentation of this data to programs, program chairs, CEP, and the administration, in a concise form so that all parties may easily know students’ perceptions of the quality of courses and their educational effectiveness. CEP would like to see, as soon as practicable, this data included in the six-year program review process as well as in quarterly and annual review.

CEP looks forward to working with you, other committees, and the administration to achieve these goals.

Sincerely,

Richard Hughey, Chair
Committee on Educational Policy

cc: Chair Aissen, Committee on Research
Chair Coe, Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid
Chair Crow, Committee on the Library
Chair Koch, Committee on Planning and Budget
Chair McDowell, Committee on Teaching
Chair Pandey, Committee on Affirmative Action and Diversity
Chair Schumm, Graduate Council