Minutes of the Meeting of Nov. 18, 2002

Approved as corrected

Members Present: Solomon Cason, Peter Claus, Sally Murphy (substituting for Carl Bellone), Fung-Shine Pan, Kris Ramsdell, Jeff Seitz, Emily Stoper, Alison Warriner (Chair)

Members Absent: Joy Andrews, Hadi Behzad, Carl Bellone, Toni Merendino, David Stronck, Karen Wong

Guests: Nan Chico, Rosanne Moore

The meeting was called to order at 2:45 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda – M/S Stoper/Pan to approve the agenda. The Chair requested the addition of two items: a Request to Allow Coursework to Fulfill the Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement for the Online M.S. in Education (after the Subcommittee Reports) and a requested substitution for a G.E. cluster course (as a third item under New Business). All agreed, so the motion passed 7-0-0.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Nov. 4 meeting – M/S/P Claus/Ramsdell, with two small corrections.

3. Report of the Chair – The Provost has agreed to fund the committee’s request for an off-campus retreat on Jan. 31. At our regular meeting on Dec. 2 the committee will interview General Education (G.E.). Director Sally Murphy; at the Jan. 6 meeting we will interview the G.E. Subcommittee.

4. Subcommittee Reports –
   a. General Education. Murphy reported that the Subcommittee met and discussed its role in the G.E. review, its upcoming visit to CIC, and the possibility of introducing a science course in Upper Division (U.D.) G.E. Two proposed U.D.G.E. courses were turned down for failing to meet the criteria.
   b. Writing Skills. Warriner reported that the Subcommittee approved the Request to Allow Coursework to Fulfill the Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement for the Online M.S. in Education. It agreed to study the second-tier writing course criteria and it discussed plans to give the Writing Skills Test (WST) to 6 second-tier course sections (as a comparability control). A new “Prompt Committee” (whose members, representing the four Colleges, will be paid a stipend by Assessment and Testing) will be convened once or twice a year to come up with new prompts for the WST. Explanation: Each student taking the WST must respond to a prompt, which is a written passage or quotation, chosen from a list of 50. This list must be updated periodically.

5. Request to allow coursework (EDUI 6706) to fulfill the Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) for Masters of Science in Education, Option in Online Teaching and Learning students, in lieu of the WST – Nan Chico, Director of Online Programs, explained that the request was made because the requirement to take the WST represented a considerable burden to the students in this program, who are scattered around the world. The test must, by law, be proctored, and it is difficult to arrange for proctors. Peter Claus, a member of CIC’s Online Subcommittee, suggested
that the request be referred to that subcommittee. Under the circumstances, most members did not have additional questions for the subcommittee and wished to expedite the process. Warriner reminded members that CSUH students who fail the WST are already allowed to fulfill the WS requirement by taking a “second-tier” course and that EDUI 6706 contains all the elements required of the second-tier courses.

M/S/P 5-0-2 Stoper/Pan to grant the request.

6. Old Business

a. General Education Review - There was discussion of the Outside Reviewer’s Report. Stoper: The report found that the G.E. Program lacked intellectual coherence and that all its problems – including the discontents of students and faculty in the cluster courses – stemmed from that lack. Murphy: The program does have intellectual coherence, though it lacks a mission statement, as the Outside Reviewer pointed out. Perhaps we should develop a mission statement. Claus: The cluster program has been undercut by departments’ tendency to defend their turf. Stoper: Since departments live or die by FTE, this is inevitable. Maybe we should consider creating a program that is not run through the departments. Seitz: What would that do to departments whose majors are supported by G.E. enrollments? Warriner: We’d have to come up with another way of supporting them. Murphy: As director of the G.E. program, I feel hamstrung because I am a faculty member; the director should be an administrator. There was discussion of the problems of teaching all-freshman classes and of the importance of having “rich-formula” cluster classes so that they can be truly interdisciplinary. Murphy: The Provost required that this G.E. program be no more costly than the previous program. Stoper: And the faculty concurred. The committee agreed to work on producing a lengthy list of both the problems and the strengths of the program, and then to develop a new program that attempts to minimize the problems and enhance the strengths.

b. Academic Standards – Postponed to a future meeting.

7. New Business

a. Honors Program Title Change – Alex Cassuto, director of the Honors Program, requested in writing that the title of the Honors Program be changed to “University Honors Program” for clarification. (Some students thought it was only in their College.) M/S/P 7-0-0 Stoper/Ramsdell to approve.

b. Course Substitution for Asian Thought Cluster - Because the course ART/PHIL 2606, Asian Thought II, will no longer be offered, the committee was asked to approve a new course, THEA 2211, Asian Thought in Theatre. M/S/P 7-0-0 Ramsdell/Stoper.

c. Cluster Number - The committee voted to approve MUS 2020 as a unique cluster number for MUS 1000. M/S/P 6-0-0.

8. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Stoper, Secretary