Committee on Preparatory Education

Total Meetings: 3  
Meeting frequency: Upon demand.  
Average hours of committee work each week: No weekly requirement. Hours dependent on issues.

Total issues reviewed: 3  
Total of reviewed issues deferred from the previous year: None  
Total requests to review issues deferred to the coming academic year: None

Listing of bylaw changes proposed: None.

Listing of committee policies established or revised: None.

Issues considered by the committee:
- Effects of budgetary constraints on English as a Second Language (ESL) and English Language Learners (ELL) programs;
- Assessment of abilities of transfer students in upper-division writing courses, relative to the abilities of those that arrived at UC Davis as first-year students;
- Review of Entry Level Writing Requirements (ELWR).

Recommended procedural or policy changes for the coming year: None

Committee's narrative:

The meetings and activities of the Committee on Preparatory Education (COPE) focused on the conditions of preparatory education courses/programs amidst the current budgetary problems. Particular attention was given to English language support programs and services, including the English as a Second Language (ESL) Program administered by the Department of Linguistics. COPE met with several faculty members associated with the ESL Program to hear their concerns. COPE provided substantial comments in response to recommendations for cost reduction of the ESL Program (sent by George R. Mangun, Dean of Social Sciences, to Chancellor Katehi and Provost Lavernia).

As a related activity, COPE formed a position statement on the potential modification or cancellation of preparatory education courses in response to budgetary constraints. This statement requests that COPE be given an opportunity to provide input to decision-making processes leading to substantive changes in preparatory education courses. Such oversight is a duty of COPE.
Involvement of COPE would ensure a broader representation of informed faculty and their insights into the potential consequences of proposed changes.

Respectfully submitted,

John Bolander, Chair  
Dmitry Fuchs  
Alessa Johns  
Robert Newcomb  
Ning Pan  
Pamela Major, Academic Federation Representative  
Maryam Taeb, ASUCD Representative