

2015-16 Annual Report of the Committee on Courses of Instruction

In fulfilling the charge set by the Berkeley Division by-laws, the Committee on Courses of Instruction (COCI) accomplished the following activities during the 2015-16 academic year. Professor Hans Sluga (Philosophy) served as chair.

I. Actions on Course and Instructor Approvals, Variance Requests, Degree Conferrals, and Course Codes

- Reviewed and approved 914 changes to campus courses, including new offerings and modifications. As authorized by COCI, Senate staff approved another 224 proposals for minor modifications and withdrawals. In total, 1138 courses and modifications were approved.
- Reviewed and approved 14 new UCB Extension courses, and 134 new instructor/course pairings.
- Reviewed 41 variance requests (40 approved, 1 denied), including 11 Acting Instructor-Graduate Student requests and 2 grade grievances.
- Reviewed approximately 345 student-facilitated course proposals (spring and fall 2016).
- Conferred degrees and honors on behalf of the Academic Senate for summer 2015, fall 2015, and spring 2016.
- Approved the creation of the following new course codes:
 - GLOBAL – Bachelor’s degree program and minor in Global Studies.
 - PUB AFF – Master’s degree program associated with the Goldman School of Public Policy.
 - XAFRICA – UC Berkeley Extension’s Fall Program for Freshman’s academic unit for African American Studies
 - XCOMLIT – UC Berkeley Extension’s Fall Program for Freshman’s academic unit for Comparative Literature

II. Key COCI Issues

A. Course Requisites

Course requisites can be enforced by the new Campus Solutions student information system. After a presentation from the Office of the Registrar, and a meeting with multiple departmental representatives to find out about their experiences enforcing prerequisites, COCI decided not to mandate enforcement of course requisites, but to allow academic units to manage requisites as needed. The Registrar will work with select academic units in fall 2016 on a pilot to allow enforcement of course prerequisites.

- B. L&S Freshman/Sophomore Seminar and Discovery Courses**
The College of Letters and Science proposed changes to Freshman/Sophomore Seminar and Discovery Courses. COCI approved 1.5-2-unit courses to no longer carry suffixes, while 3-4-unit courses will carry a suffix and undergo full review by COCI. Discovery Courses will no longer be treated as special topics courses and each course will be subject to full COCI review as a stand-alone course.
- C. L&S Reading & Composition Courses**
Based on a joint proposal from the College of Letters & Science Executive Committee and the Council of Undergraduate Deans, COCI approved a new grading option for the Course Management System (CMS) so that all courses meeting the Reading and Composition (R&C) requirement will be offered for a letter grade only (and prohibit the option for students to take an R&C course Passed/Not passed (P/NP)), in alignment with L&S Regulation 110. COCI also approved updates to prerequisites for R&C courses.
- D. Four-Year Re-Review of Online Courses**
COCI solicited follow-up reviews for eight online courses approved four years ago, according to its procedures. Responses were received from all departments. COCI also reviewed enrollment data for the Office of the Registrar.
- E. COCI Representation on Campuswide Groups**
Professor Elizabeth Honig represented COCI on the Coordination Board for Admissions, Financial Aid, and Enrollment Management.
- F. Data Sciences Initiative**
COCI continued to discuss the campus-wide data sciences initiative. COCI decided that the whole committee would review each new data science proposal so as to be familiar with the range and quality of the courses. A new course proposal for L & S 88: Data Science Connector was discussed and approved with the requirement that after two academic years (end of fall 2017) L&S must provide a report on the implementation and status of the course.
- G. UC Berkeley Extension**
On 04/22/16 UC Berkeley Extension Dean Diana Wu met with COCI to report on UNEX initiatives, including growth initiatives in public, international, online, and corporate education programs; the opening of a new San Francisco satellite campus; and a response to a campus request to grow the Fall Program for Freshman to accommodate increased admission goals of the University.

APPROVED

Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate
Committee on Courses of Instruction
2015-16

III. COCI review of Academic Senate Policies and Issues

A. Minimum Grade for Entry Level Writing Requirement Courses

Comments submitted to Rules & Elections 08/29/16

B. Limiting the Number of Pass / Not Passed Units

Joint comments with the Committee on Educational Policy submitted to Divisional Council on 03/17/15

C. Simplifying Repeat Rules

Comments submitted to Divisional Council on 12/18/15