2002 - 2003 Annual Report of the Committee on Student Affairs (STA)  
Lorraine Midanik, Chair

"This Committee shall act as a forum for the exchange of views among faculty, students and administrators in order to enhance the quality of student life, thereby strengthening the campus community. Accordingly, this Committee shall address issues pertaining to social welfare (e.g., health, safety), intellectual growth (e.g. academic support), and ethical development (e.g., community service, student and faculty conduct." (Am. 10.25.94)

UC Berkeley Code of Student Conduct

STA extended invitations to Karen Kenney and Neal Rajmaira to a STA meeting to discuss the Berkeley Student Code of Conduct. Mr. Neal Rajmaira was invited to the 30 October 2002 meeting where he answered committee members' questions regarding the Code of Conduct. He pointed out ambiguities in the text of the code and said that he would forward new changes to the committee. The committee drafted a letter to Genaro Padilla, Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Affairs, approving the changes.

The committee felt that students were unaware of conduct issues. The committee drafted a letter suggesting the inclusion of student conduct issues in course outlines to COCI.

Plagiarism detection software (turnitin.com)

STA dealt with the plagiarism detection software as it relates to student rights. The Office of Legal Affairs stopped UCB's purchase of a site-license to turnitin.com pending further investigations into any student confidentiality and/or copyright issues the use of such software might raise. Since Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) had been dealing with this issue, Chair Midanik recommended cooperating with CEP.

Chair Midanik looked into the creation of a committee to deal specifically with the plagiarism detection software. She drafted and sent a resolution to develop a joint Senate / Administrative work group on issues and policies related to the plagiarism software to Division Chair Catherine Koshland. Professor Paul Vojta presented the resolution at the February 10, 2003 meeting of the Divisional Council (DIVCO) where the formation of the working group was approved.

The plagiarism detection software work group will likely be established in conjunction with the Code of Student Conduct Steering Committee.

Meetings with student groups

STA members decided to meet with members of student groups on campus to broaden the lines of communications between students and the Committee. Jesse Gabriel informed the Committee that there were approximately 500 student organizations on campus of varying size and activity. Since it was impossible for STA to meet with most
student groups, Chair Midanik drafted a letter addressed to all student groups to inform them of the Committee's willingness to meet with them. Only two responses were received. Those two had concerns that STA could not act upon.

Special Studies courses (De-Cal)

Chair Midanik was appointed to the Special Studies Working Group, a committee formed to make formal recommendations about special studies (De-Cal) courses. The committee made recommendations to Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Paul Gray not to eliminate De-Cal courses, but to standardize and formalize the course approval procedures.

The Final Report of the Special Studies Working Group offered the development of forms requiring signatures and checklists identifying responsibilities for the student teacher and the faculty sponsor. Plus, procedures were clarified, including where the forms must be submitted.

USA Patriot Act

Professor Heino Nitsche volunteered for the USA Patriot Act Steering Committee.

The issue of disclosure of records pertained to STA. No longer is probable cause required to request records, only a subpoena.

Disaster Planning and Preparedness Work Group (DWPG)

Professor Kate van Orden volunteered for this work group.

Review of UC Berkeley Strategic Academic Plan

Committee members discussed and approved of the UC Berkeley Strategic Academic Plan without any formal comments.

Student Services Working Group - Budget Cuts

Chair Midanik was appointed to the Student Services Working Group which has been charged with advising Chancellor Berdahl on how to go about cutting twenty percent from the budget of student services supported by student registration fees. STA recommended cutting the least from services that furthered the University's academic mission and cutting the most from services that are more able to survive without the funding from student registration fees (through funding elsewhere).

The final report of the Student Services Budget Working Group was reviewed. Many of the suggestions from STA are reflected in the report.

Counseling & Psychological Services (CPS); Students' Psychological Issues

Karen Kenney, Dean of Students and Dr. Jeff Prince, Director of CPS, discussed issues about how to inform faculty as they handle psychologically troubled students. Kenney and Prince said there has been a significant increase in the number of students seeking
psychological counseling. STA recommended providing the information in a prominent place in the faculty handbook. Also, the department officials that handle student advising could be given relevant information regarding CPS to disseminate to faculty in their departments.

Beyond informing faculty, STA also recommended including Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs) in the process. CPS guides and general advice should be placed in a prominent place in the GSI Handbook.

**UC Berkeley Summer Sessions Regularization Plan**

STA recommendations:

- Changing the structure of financial aid so that it is attached to a semester or a calendar year, but not to the academic year.
- Allowing the faculty to contribute to the retirement system voluntarily for the additional service credit.
- Shifting policies, for example, so students would be required to take some units in the summer.
- Admitting students for the summer semester the way it is done in the spring.
- Rotating the summer teaching. Depending on the teaching load, faculty may be able to teach every summer.

**Proposed Revised Faculty - Student Relations (APM 015)**

The Committee endorsed the proposed revision to the policy as written.

**APM 010 - Academic Freedom**

STA commented that the policy was very vague. STA suggested that the policy should be more explicit.

**Proposed Academic Calendar, 2004 - 2005**

Besides Professor van Orden's e-mail that she did not perceive the changes to be significant, there were no other comments.

**Courseweb Feature - Photos**

STA expressed their agreement that Courseweb is a wonderful service for faculty and students. STA was concerned that the photos would be available to the public.

**Directions for STA 2003 - 2004**

The Committee discussed the approach they would like to see taken for next year on STA. Members admitted that it was helpful this past year to have staff who are on campus and working on student affairs come to STA meetings to talk to member about what they are involved with. It was suggested that this practice be continued next year. It was not felt that having student organizations visit the committee was as helpful.
Members also noted that the committee needs to continue communication with students and get them more involved. STA needs the student committee members to regularly attend meetings to get their input. What STA can and cannot do for students is a message that must get out. Such an approach might increase students’ interest in STA. Sanjay Govindjee suggested that STA could hold an open forum regarding a topic that has been brought to the attention of STA (e.g., student-related issues raised by USA PATRIOT Act). Heino Nitsche volunteered to bring this suggestion of an open forum to the Steering Committee for USA PATRIOT Act. Chair Midanik strongly suggested staying in touch with Karen Kenney, Dean of Students, who can suggest units that STA would benefit from meeting with.