Chair Benner called the meeting of the Committee on Educational Policy to order on Monday, February 10, 2003 at 9:10 a.m. in Room S-30.

Chair’s Report

Chair Benner reported on the following from the University Education Policy Committee (UCEP):

- Discussions are continuing regarding what constitutes a course and how courses are counted within the UC system. Specifically, the Board of Regents is concerned that tenured faculty aren’t teaching enough large courses -- the Board has requested more accountability for instruction that receives a designation of course. The schools and faculty have expressed reluctance to diminish smaller courses for the sake of efficiency. More feedback is being solicited and will be forthcoming from the schools.
- UCEP heard a presentation from UC librarians on “information literacy.” In response to concerns that students are not aware of the most efficient ways to retrieve information, the Committee supports initiating a systemwide task force to ensure the integration into regular classes of effective ways to manage and retrieve academic information.
- In response to an ongoing initiative to streamline reciprocity between community colleges and the UC system, an ad-hoc proposal is under consideration that would grant transfer credit of any community college course to any UC campus if any five (5) UC campuses have given their approval (with a clause that any individual campus could reject any particular course if they registered their dissent within 90 days).
- UCEP will be updating the UC policy on appropriate faculty-student relations. A report is forthcoming.

Old Business
Follow Up on Interdisciplinary Teaching Tasks – Chair Benner

- Chair Benner requested that Academic Senate staff send out a previously drafted letter regarding interdisciplinary teaching to EPC chairs in all of the Schools (see attached).

- The Center for Informational Technology (CIT) Advisory Group has met and is working on centralizing digital asset storage. D. Tietel will present a report at the next meeting.

- Chair Benner indicated that she plans to invite Vice Chancellor Dorothy Bainton to advise the Committee about effective avenues to pursue interdisciplinary teaching based on her experiences at other schools.

New Business

Part Time Enrollment

Chair Benner indicated general support for the part time enrollment proposal assuming it was in line with the mission of the University, through it might cause some problems at a systemwide level. The Committee discussed possible problems with the proposal, including the higher cost for students, whether students would have to adhere to the graduation requirements upon their admission or at their time of graduation, the difficulty for faculty to maintain a steady learning environment, and the potential increase in the overall number of students without an increase in the number of faculty/administrators. A suggestion was made that allowance of part time enrollment be limited to a predetermined percentage of the student body, in order to ensure it remains manageable. Chair Benner indicated that she will solicit more input via e-mail.

Five Year Perspective

D. Deen volunteered to serve as the EPC representative on the Senate Ad-Hoc Task Force on the Five Year Perspective. The Committee expressed concern over the short time frame and limited information provided and indicated a reduced capacity to provide conscientious input.

Review of Response to the Master Plan – Chair Benner

Chair Benner requested any input from the Committee on the Response to the Master Plan before the next meeting of the systemwide EPC on March 26, 2003.

Classroom Scheduling – M. Winter

M. Winter reported that new scheduling software has been purchased, will be tested in the spring and summer and should be operational by fall quarter. He also reported that there are currently two committees attempting to address the classroom scheduling problem, and that the EPC Classroom Advisory Committee and Classroom Space Planning Committee should be combined. Winter will discuss this proposal with D. Irby, Chair of the Classroom Space Planning Committee and then make a recommendation to the Committee.

Discussion of Campus-wide Committee on Ethics
The Committee briefly discussed the concept of a campus-wide Committee on Ethics that would satisfy ethics training grant requirements. Further discussion will occur at the next Committee meeting.

Chair Benner adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

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