

**SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS INITIATIVE GROUP (SMIG)
ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006**

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

The Science and Mathematics Initiative Group (SMIG), created by the Academic Council, is charged to “advise the Academic Council as it coordinates activities among the campuses and seeks to coordinate with UCOP. The SMIG will assist in keeping the communications between all parties ongoing in both a timely and effective manner. The SMIG will report regularly to the Academic Council on its activities and the progress of the Science and Mathematics Initiative (SMI) along with any potential problems encountered.” SMIG held three teleconferences and participated in a joint Senate-Administration workshop during the 2005-2006 academic year. Highlights of the group’s activities are noted herein.

Campus-Office of the President Relations

Receiving significant and consistent attention from the group was the issue of campus-Office of the President (OP) relations and responsibilities. The group investigated how to best balance the conflicting needs of the program, from localized implementation to systemwide standards, from campus-specific course design to state-certified credentialing requirements, from encouraging campus specific fundraising efforts to securing comprehensive state funding. This debate was furthered by the organizational evolution of the program from being UCOP-centered to being campus-centered in terms of leadership, development, and innovation. The group, through its meetings and consultations with campus officials and UCOP leaders, submitted to the Academic Council recommendations to facilitate the transition in the leadership locus, while maintaining a strategic balance in key areas between the campuses and UCOP. One recommendation was that the group continue its work in the upcoming academic year.

Credentialing

As the goal of the Initiative is to increase the number of science and mathematics teachers produced through the University of California pipeline, one major concern was ensuring that participants could become state-certified. Accordingly, the group considered on-going political developments in Sacramento as well as the models and methods employed both by UC’s other teacher-training programs as well as by programs comparable to SMI at similar institutions of higher learning. Developments in this area will receive continued scrutiny in the coming year.

Curricula and Program Design

Again taking careful note of UC’s other teacher-training programs and programs initiated in similar institutions, the group discussed how to balance the unique needs and resources of each campus with the necessity of presenting comparable courses and experiences to all students. In part, it is hoped that parity among individual campus programs may ease the fulfillment of the state’s credentialing requirements, and in part, the group considered resource sharing among the campuses, especially in the summer institutes. Discussions on how best to accomplish relative uniformity are on-going.

Consultation with UCOP/Administration

During each teleconference and the joint workshop, the group received updates from UC SMI Director Lynda Goff, and on two occasions from then-Acting Provost Rory Hume. Director Goff and Provost Hume gave detailed information on the leadership transfer from UCOP to the campuses, the credentialing requirements of the state, the status of SMI funding from both public and private sectors, as well as continuing efforts at fostering intersegmental cooperation.

Reports and Recommendations

The group communicated its recommendations for the continued role of SMIG and the implementation of SMI to the Academic Council at the latter's June meeting. The recommendations were endorsed by the Academic Council and may be viewed online at <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/committees/council/ac.smig.proposal.0706.pdf>.

Acknowledgments and Guests

The group was privileged to invite and learn from a variety of guests, including Jane Conoley, Dean, Gervitz Graduate School of Education (UCSB, formerly of Texas A&M MASS), Michael Marder, Co-Director UTeach (University of Texas, Austin), Sue Marshall, Director of Undergraduate Programs, Department of Education (UCI), and Athena Waite, Director of Teacher Education, School of Education (UCR, UCCTC). The group also thanks Provost Rory Hume, SMI Director Lynda Goff, and the UC SMI administrative team for their assistance, guidance, and cooperation.

Respectfully submitted:

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