Chancellor’s office may reclassify courses

Lower quality of English classes?

by Margie Cooper
Staff Writer

The future of the English major at Cal Poly could be threatened if a Chancellor’s Office proposal to reclassify 14 English courses is implemented, according to English Department Head Thomas Van.

Van told Malcolm Wilson, associate vice-president of academic programs, in a Jan. 10 letter that the reclassification would affect the quality of education the English Department can offer to majors.

According to Tomlinson Fort, Jr., vice-president of academic affairs, the school was notified by the Chancellor’s Office in November, 1982 that 22 Cal Poly classes would be affected by the reclassification of course type and size. The reclassification system, called mode and level, which is being implemented on all CSU campuses, breaks down every course taught on campus into a category, lecture, discussion, seminar, etc., based on four different sizes and whether the course is lower or upper division or graduate level.

At Cal Poly, the reclassification would increase the number of students enrolled in 10 lower division literature courses to 45, nearly double what it is now. Four upper division courses would change from the required 22 student minimum class size to 32.

The English Department would have to compete with other departments for larger classrooms for the lower division classes since the English Building rooms will not seat more than 40 students, Van explained.

We do not compete successfully for prime time with the other departments for these classrooms. If we offer class sizes at unfavorable hours later in the day, we will receive enrollment,” he said.

Wilson said the changes from the reclassification will affect all departments on campus, but some courses will have reduced class size, so there will be “less competition” for those 45 seats.

According to Van, the English Department will be operating at a loss in its upper division classes, as well as the more popular lower division courses that many non-English majors must take, require a larger enrollment.

“Many of our courses don’t have the enrollment we would like, so we look to the general education courses like Great Books of the Western World to make up for the loss of students in the upper division classes,” he said.

Upper division classes that do not draw 33 or more students could possibly be dropped from the curriculum, causing the department to lose money, he explained.

Van said he also feels there is a “personnel issue here” that could cause a “major collapse” in instructor satisfaction.

There is a great amount of pressure on the English Department to teach more writing classes, he said, estimating the English faculty teaches 60 percent of the writing classes now, when much of their training is in literature.

“I don’t mind working as a service department to the school, but there is a big difference between service and servitude,” Van said.

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New entry plan stresses more than GPA

by Lorie Wallin
Staff Writer

The only state university in the CSU system with an admission system that weights an applicant’s personal qualifications in addition to grade point average, Cal Poly is threatened that students with a 4.0 GPA are not necessarily the best prepared for university programs.

According to Admissions Officer Dave H. Snyder, the Multi-Criterion Allocation Plan was the result of a pilot study and extensive research on admissions which linked personal qualities with academic success.

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We had to come up with a plan to resolve our admission problems,” Snyder said.” He said. With an enrollment ceiling set at 15,000, there are 900 fewer students at Cal Poly this year. Last year when 60 percent of the applicants were turned away, only 5,617 out of 12,597 applicants were accommodated.

Why does Cal Poly attract so many students? “We offer more variety than four or five CSU universities also offer,” Snyder said, citing that the department architecture was probably twice as big as that of Cal Poly. With the only graphic communications program in the state, the university is also one of the few that are highly involved with the applied arts program. Cal Poly has led other universities in developing a fairly comprehensive engineering program, and he added that Poly’s engineering technology graduates were in demand. He said business graduates had been successful in part because of a carryover effect due to the engineering graduates’ great track record.

With students coming from various areas of the state, Cal Poly means different things to different people. To some, it is an agricultural school and to others, a high-technology computer school. “We have different faces — perhaps that is why we are so successful.”

The previous admissions policy shortchanged students. With the selection process based solely on GPA and Scholastic Aptitude Test scores, no consideration was given to the type of courses an applicant had taken. Some went to upper division colleges with little training in the field. Whether he/she had worked part-time, held school officer or was involved in athletics or extracurricular activities.

“Because of the ‘impacted’ status, applicants admitted to heavily oversubscribed programs had to exhibit very high or 4.0 grade point averages, while those applying to less crowded programs did not need scores as high. This led to a ‘bimodal student ability distribution,’ which further magnified the problem of underrepresented groups on campus, Snyder said.

The MCA plan, devised by Snyder, views applicants holistically. Academic ability weighs 75 percent in admission considerations, while performance outside the classroom can contribute no more than 25 percent. Under the plan, prior experience is given to community college transfer students. California residents, veterans, ethnic minorities and underrepresented groups (such as women in high technology programs or men in teacher education programs). Cal Poly has largely been a homogeneous body catering to white, middle class students. By the year 2000, demographers statewide project that California’s white majority will no longer be the majority. Many Hispanic and Mexican-Americans and Hispanics will make up the largest percentage of non-whites — presently only 12 percent of the student body is Hispanic.

An exception to underrepresented minorities at Cal Poly is the Asian-Americans. Snyder noted the percentage of Asian-Americans in California high schools was about 4.3 percent, while they comprised 14 percent of the student population at Cal Poly. He said this is partly because of the university’s emphasis on quantitative education and that Asians seemed to be quantitatively oriented.

“They’ve had an easier time moving into white society; that’s why they’re represented in proportion to their numbers at Cal Poly,” Snyder said.

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Cal Poly admissions system is multi-faceted

From page 1

In theory, the MCA plan is trying to change Cal Poly’s demographics so that they truly represent the numbers in society. Gov. George Deukmejian’s state budget cuts which have raised quarterly fees by 84% seem to be working against the MCA plan to help correct minority imbalances. But Snyder said that many ethnic minorities applying to Cal Poly come from middle-class families (with civil service, teaching or military backgrounds) “who are better off economically” and not unfamiliar with college. Studies show that minority applicants have at least one parent with some exposure to college education, and in many cases, both parents.

The types of programs and degrees offered at Cal Poly facilitate ethnic minorities’ emergence into the middle class stratum. “Our graduates are not just shotgunning out of here into society, but are targeted to that segment of the middle class structure,” Snyder said.

“But we don’t get lots of minority applicants because of the academic preparation that’s needed,” he said, adding the applicants weren’t educationally prepared to enter technical programs — which is largely an “error of society.” Although spaces granted to minorities did increase 22 percent in fall quarter (over fall quarter, 1981), Snyder was not sure whether the number of applications had increased or whether the MCA plan was responsible.

Chancellor W. Ann Reynolds said in a Dec. 27 publication of The Chancellor Comments that in accordance with the California Master Plan for Higher Education (which in 1963 came up with a coherent system for state and community colleges to unify their goals and work under a central administration), “The CSU is to take its entrants from the top one-third of California high school graduates.” And in the same issue, she called for “facilitating entry” by minorities into the CSU system so “appropriate numbers” of minorities would graduate.

Snyder said that in regards to minorities the entire educational system was a paradox, and that its primary failure was “not responding adequately to the needs of minorities.” Any educational system has to have fairly rigorous standards for both entrance and exit without which the system would fail to do what it is supposed to be doing. He said many high schools in the past 20 years had tried to become all things to all people.

Please see page 5

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Senior projects can be fun

South of the border excursion
product of student’s planning

by Lorie Wallin
Staff Writer

After 10 weeks of planning and preparation, it all came together during Christmas vacation—lounging on a beautiful isolated Mexican beach under 85 degree sunny skies while munching fresh coconut and sipping tropical rum drinks from hollowed pineapple shells.

Not a bad way to wind up a senior project, huh?

Sponsored by the University Union Travel Center, the 10-day trip to San Jose del Cabo, Cabo San Lucas and Puerto Vallarta was the culmination of 22-year-old business major Carolyn Chilton’s senior project when she led a group of tourists into Mexico.

Chilton volunteered to work in the Travel Center last year helping students with information on foreign countries, work/study programs abroad, and air flights. According to Rod Neubert, University Union recreation director, the Travel Center helps people travel on a limited budget by offering low-cost trips and student discounts, although he added that the center’s services were also available to non-students.

Chilton had made several previous trips to Mexico and after eight years of studying Spanish, qualified as a tour guide. Before she had worked one quarter, she was leading her first tour group to Mexico, and not long after that, her second.

Last quarter she offered to guide a trip and make all the necessary arrangements as her senior project. After Neubert approved the proposal, Chilton’s business expertise came into play as she wrote agencies for price estimates, securing package deals on flights and hotel accommodations.

The grand total for transportation, hotels and student insurance came to $884 each. She publicized the trip speaking to Spanish classes, printing flyers, putting up a poster in the UU and placing advertisements with 14 radio stations and seven newspapers. (Her follow-up revealed that most people heard of the trip through the Mustang Daily.)

The response was good, and she said many people who signed up for the trip had never been there before. An organizational meeting and dinner was held prior to their departure in which Chilton outlined the do’s and don’ts of “How not to get sick,” such as; don’t eat vegetables unless cooked; don’t drink water unless purified; and order drinks without ice. She further explained about the currency and gave non-Spanish speaking tourists a few key phrases to help out.

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CO-OP CALENDAR

The Cooperative Education program is a work experience program through which students alternate periods of study with work related to their majors. The work is paid, and academic credit is given.

The following organizations are coming on campus to interview for co-op students, and you may come to the co-op office to arrange to interview with them. There are also many other companies interested in co-ops, and information on these positions is available at the office in Chase Hall.

Wed. Jan. 26
EE, ME, AE
City of Palo Alto

Tues. Feb. 1
IBM
CSC, MATH, STAT
Westlake Village

Tues. Feb. 1
ENVE, ET/A&CR
Sandia Labs
Albuquerque, NM

Tues. Feb. 1
IE
Kaiser Permanente
Medical Centers
Oakland, Sacramento, N.Ca.
Info Session Sun.
Jan. 30, 6 pm.
Staff Dining Rm A

Tues. Feb. 1
ME, AE
Container Corp. of America
Los Angeles

Fri. Feb 4
ACTG
IRS
Bakersfield
Info Day on Summer co-ops, Chase Hall
Rm. 202, 11 am.

First Week of
Feb. (date not firm)
ME, AE, EE, CE
Puget Sound Naval Shipyard
Bremerton, WA

Fri. Mar. 11
MIS, CSC, ACTG
Naval Civilian Personnel Command
**Outdoors News**

**Mexican getaway a big success**

From page 3

In planning the itinerary, Chilton avoided strict travel schedules so as not to be a "prisoner of having to do something at a given time. Instead, she opted for a loose plan allowing for trip members to travel in pairs on their own (as long as she knew where they were going!).

When the flight arrived in San Jose del Cabo, the airport there caused a few raised eyebrows. It consisted of nothing but a thatched grass roof which covered an open air baggage area. The group took taxis for the 25-mile trek over deeply rutted dirt roads to Cabo San Lucas where they encountered towering rock cliffs and a stone arch punctuating the tip of the peninsula. That spot, dubbed Land's End, is where the Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Cortez converge.

Hotel accommodations, according to Neubert, were nothing less than spectacular. Each room had its own patio for sunning and direct access to miles of isolated beach. Swimming pools which became sites for water volleyball matches had sunken bars which one could swim to for a cool drink, he said. The long stretch of shoreline invited shell collecting and leisurely walks in the warm surf. Snorkeling became a group favorite with the abundance of brilliantly colored tropical fish.

A vigorous hike up the rock cliffs revealed a panoramic view of the harbor, the whole town of San Jose del Cabo, and a magnificent sunset, which they found to be so grandios, some made the climb the next morning to witness an equally stunning sunrise.

From Cabo San Lucas, they embarked on a 18-hour trip across the Sea of Cortez to Puerto Vallarta. A catamaran sailed them further to a rookery for pelicans on some rock islands and then down the coast to Mismaloya Beach where the movie set of "Night of the Iguana" stands amidst lush palms.

The group feasted on seafood style during their stay, as shrimp and lobster dinners were had for $4.00. Three tacos and a drink could be purchased for under a dollar, although some tour members, being accustomed to American Mexican food, didn't like the real thing and decided to wait until they got back to California to eat "Mexican" food.

Ranging in age from 20-35 years, trip members found different fascinations in Mexico. Several hearty souls hit the disco's every night, with their favorite being the City Dump, where they danced to American tunes of 10 years ago. Others worked on their tans soaking up the sun, while some found hiking up the river into jungle-like thickets where iguanas and multi-colored parakeets scurried about more to their liking.

Shopping was an adventure for all. Upon their arrival the exchange rate for pesos was 70 per dollar, and within several days the peso took a massive to 148 per dollar. "It was just like everything was half price," said Chilton, adding that the group went crazy buying three or four of every thing. Toward the end of the trip they had an excess of money left. Recovering pesos to dollars is a problem, she said, "so whatever money you exchange, be sure to use it all."

She said that some members, in their wildest armchair adventures, had expected bad experiences with "banditos," (thieves), and were surprised when the trip was completed safely. Chilton said this was the best trip she had, and that it was a real learning experience dealing with 11 people wanting 11 different things.

"It's kind of scary when you're in charge of everything and you don't want people to be disappointed," she said.

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**Note:** The Outdoors Editor will accept submission from any campus or community organization for "Outdoor News." Columns will run on a regular basis, but will appear approximately every two to three weeks. Entries can be dropped off at the Mustang Daily office, Graphic Arts Building 226. **NOTE:** The Outdoor section runs on Wednesdays — this week is an exception!
Greater class size hurts majors?

From page 1

Fort said the English Department "does serve two roles at Cal Poly": to teach writing and literature to majors and "serve as a service department for non-English majors.

"The general education program adopted by this campus will increase the number of literature courses taught to non-English majors," he added.

Wilson said the mode and level system, in operation for the last 20 years in the CSU system, has to do with allocation of state funds.

Every class on campus generates credit units based on the number of full-time equivalent students, he explained.

"Cal Poly has been budgeted to receive credit for 14,200 full time equivalent students from the state," Wilson said.

CAC attempts to enhance awareness

From page 1

The CAC "can be vocal for all the ethnic. It's just a matter of getting all those people vocal," he added.

The fact that seven of the 10 groups are participating today in the Multi-Cultural Fair shows there is a willingness represented by the CAC, said Contreras, "but simply because we're ethnic means we really have to put ourselves out and represent our cause." Cultural awareness is especially important at Cal Poly, said Contreras, because ethnic groups are "terribly misrepresented."
With work, John Scott is just swimming in it

By Teresa Mariani

He’s been swimming since he was seven and competing in the pentathlon since he was 15. He made it to Nationals in Division II swimming and to the international pentathlon competition in 1981 and 1982. And to top it all off, he’s a Cal Poly architecture major.

But ask 20-year-old Poly swimmer John Scott why he swims year round and does nothing but train for the pentathlon every summer and he doesn’t know what to say.

“I don’t know,” he says after a long pause. “I just like to do well at whatever I’m doing.”

Scott has been spending his summers in San Antonio, Tex., training and competing in the national pentathlon competition for the past five years.

“When we’re there, we’re only there to train. It’s three workouts a day, six days a week. Everyone’s training, so it’s not so hard at all to keep doing it,” he said.

The Olympic Committee sponsors the five event competition Scott and about 30 other athletes train for each year. Pentathletes compete in swimming, long distance running, horseback riding, fencing and pistol shooting.

A swimming coach in Scott’s hometown of Santa Cruz told him about the pentathlon when he was 13, and he’s been working to compete in it ever since.

Scott plans to take spring quarter off to go to San Antonio and begin training for the 1983 pentathlon. It’s the only quarter he plans to leave school to train.

“This is my last year as a junior,” he grinned. “I’m looking forward to nationals this year. But I’ve just been swimming for so long. I need a change.”

Scott wants to compete in the 1988 Olympics — not as a swimmer, but in the pentathlon.

“Swimming is too competitive,” he said. “Right now swimming is so competitive, you have to be very, very good to get in the pool.”

By 1988 “I’d be 26, and that’s fairly young for pentathletes,” Scott explained.

Scott’s summer training and double workouts with the Cal Poly swim team have made him forget what free time is. “Spare time? I’m either swimming or doing homework,” he said.

Scott can’t see the day he stops training and competing in some way. “As long as I can support what I’d like to do, I’m going to do it,” he said.
Endless practice

Poly Athletes of the Week

Leaders display near-perfection

Some coaches use the term in their jargon, or they post the title on their bulletin boards — team leader.

It's not the person who has the best stats the coaches are talking about, although they can have impressive performances.

Instead the coaches are talking about the person who does the work and does the work well, who may talk it up and stir the enthusiasm but doesn't really have to, who leads by example.

—Two of this week's Mustang Daily sports staff picked as Athletes of the Week.

From the wrestling team comes somebody who really leads by example, if the example you want to emulate is perfection. Right now, senior Louie Montano is ranked No. 2 in the nation by National Mat News. And why not? He's 23-0 in collegiate competition, having toppled the best Oklahoma University, Oregon State and other wrestling powerhouse teams, and then Arizona State's Tom Drahman, 10-2.

Montano, a 138-pounder, was All-America last year. No doubt the honor will be repeated — maybe even bettered — this season.

Tom Perkins helps lead the men's basketball team. He'd have to. At 6-4, he can't be missed. The senior has started most of the season at center — both CCAA games and has pulled down the largest number of rebounds on the team to date with 79, which includes 16 CCAA rebounds for an eight rebound average.

He has the second highest second season free-throw percentage on the team, with .797, close behind guard Mike Sain's .806, as well as the second highest team CCAA field goal percentage with .545.

The Mustangs go to Cal State Northridge and Los Angeles this weekend, with the sky hook Perkins in tow.

Congratulations to the Athletes of the Week.
... Had a farm

It is not a good time to be on the farm.

The economy and other factors have left many farmers in the United States with an uncertain future. The California Bank of America estimates that repayment of 25-30 percent of the farm loans it has made, $2.25 billion worth, the largest amount of any commercial bank in the country, will not be paid on time. Dropping land values have caught farmers who used their farms as collateral several years ago unawares. In the past few years, interest rates have risen, income has dropped, embargoes have been in force, and bad weather has ruined many crops.

The response has not been silent. A few weeks ago 300 farmers rioted in Colorado when they were unable to stop the auction of farmland owned by Jerry Wright. President Reagan's grain embargo had kept him from making a profit, Wright said. Last Saturday, the front page of the Los Angeles Times, one of the most urban papers in the country, carried a front page photo and story about the auction of another farm in Ohio which local farmers also tried to stop. In November, Illinois dairy farmers shouted down an auctioneer forcing the Farmers Home Administration, the federal agricultural loan institution, to renegotiate the loan. In October other Illinois dairy farmers occupied the offices of the Farm Bureau in Ottawa.

Foreclosures by the FmHA more than doubled last year. Farmers complain about the interest rates, the weather, dropping land values and losing the support of a government they say backed up by ending the grain embargoes. All this and prices have left the pastoral life anything but pastoral.

Reagan is attempting to respond to the dilemma. He has signed legislation that will assure foreign buyers, like the Soviet Union, that their contract will be honored through anything short of a state of war. It is not a good time to be down on the farm.

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It is reassuring to know that the Mustang realizes it is important to recognize "Punk Rockers" and understand their outlook. It's more than listening to music and dressing differently. It is both a response to and a statement about this world we live in. For some it is just a different kind of music to be into the fastest and rawest yet, but for most punks it is a way of life. It is not accurate to take the Punk concept on just one or two levels. The clothes and hair are of individual design; each person is unique. However, the attitude and outlook are much more important.

Punk began and continues as a protest — rebellion against repression everywhere. Where there is injustice, there are punks; in the U.K., in the Soviet Union, in Lebanon, in Poland, in the U.S. Music is the all-important instrumentation of the outcries against repression. Small wonder the music is so often raw and angry.

It seems to be human nature to dislike anything we don't understand. Consequently, punks are often victims of uncalled-for abuse and discrimination. Granted, there are a few punks who seem to enjoy the image just for the excuse to be malicious and violent — just as there are a few jerks in every crowd. Ignoring thefadism, worn-out stereotypes! Society invariably judges people by what they wear. The Dead Kennedys, in a song called "Halloween," point out that people carefully plan what they wear on Halloween: "But tomorrow your mold goes back on... Where are your ideals?... Why not every day? Are you so afraid what people will say?"

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The Mustang Daily is accepting applications for editorial post positions on the Poly Royal edition of the Daily. Positions are two co-editors, a photo editor, and editor of the Cross Currents supplement. More information on what the positions entail is available in the Daily office. Room 228 of the Graphic Arts Building.