

Annual Report, 1994-95

University Committee on Academic Policy
Ronald C. Fisher, Chairperson

Meetings held:

9/8/94; 10/6/94; 10/20/94; 11/3/94; 11/17/94; 12/1/94; 1/12/95;
1/26/95; 2/9/95; 2/23/95; 3/16/95; 4/13/95; 4/27/95

1. Description of Committee Activities

A. Grading Practices-

Examined grades and grading history at MSU over the past 20 years. Completed a report on Grading Practices at MSU, which was distributed to all faculty. In view of continuing substantial differences in the distribution of grades among different teaching units, UCAP requested units to conduct internal discussions of grading practices.

B. Classroom Performance and Academic Expectations

Discussion of academic environment issues, including those raised by Professor H. Lockhart in a memo to Faculty Council. Completed report on Classroom Performance and Academic Expectations, which was submitted to Faculty Council in 1995. The report concluded that faculty authority and responsibility for academic issues was clearly stated and thus recommended no new policy statements.

C. Foreign Language

Considered options for foreign language entrance and graduation requirements. Recommended to Academic Council that MSU implement an entrance requirement of 2 years of high school study of one foreign language, or the equivalent, effective in 1997. This recommendation was adopted by Academic Council.

D. Interim Procedures on Handling Allegations of Misconduct in Scholarship

Discussion of procedures to revise the Interim Procedures on Misconduct in Scholarship. Met with David Wright, University Intellectual Integrity Officer, Professor Peter Wagner, and Professor Steven Spees. Nominated Professor Robert Bull to a ad hoc committee to draft revisions. The ad hoc committee has issued a preliminary report and will continue to work over the summer.

E. APP & R Process

Met with Provost Simon to discuss the application and implications of the revised APP & R process used in 1994-95. Reiterated UCAP's position adopted on April 8, 1993, requesting that the Provost's Office consult with UCAP before policy guidelines are incorporated into the APP & R communication formats. Subsequent discussion at the Executive Committee resolved that UCAP will continue to be the main contact and point of discussion for these issues between Academic Governance and the administration.

F. Annual Enrollment

Discussed annual enrollment implementation and evaluation issues. Adopted recommendation concerning review and evaluation of that process, recommending involvement of faculty and students in both the design and conduct of a review of the effects of adoption of annual enrollment.

G. Note-taking Services

Discussed and reviewed University policy concerning note-taking services. As practices and the law in this area evolve, continued discussion in the future seems called for.

H. Report of the International Review Committee

Discussed recommendations of the Report of the International Review Committee and forwarded suggestions and comments to Steering Committee.

I. CIERT Report

Reviewed and commented on the CIERT Report.

J. Transfer Students

Amended and approved an extension for Transition Rules on Integrative Studies for Transfer Students.

K. ASUS Notification Procedures Regarding Financial Aid

Approved changes to the ASUS procedures so that MSU conforms to federal guidelines concerning financial aid. These changes were recommended to and subsequently approved by Academic Council.

L. Undergraduate Majors in Special Education

Review of policy change concerning degree credits for undergraduate majors in special education.

M. Honor and High-Honor Awards

Reviewed data concerning Bachelor's degrees awarded with honor and high honor.

N. Annual Survey of Admissions Requirements

Reviewed results of the annual survey of the percentages of incoming students satisfying various requirements.

2. Matters Pending Before the Committee, 1995-96

A. Procedures on Allegations of Misconduct in Scholarship.

The ad hoc Committee to revise the Interim Procedures, which Professor Robert Bull from UCAP, is expected to recommend additional revisions next academic year. These might be reviewed or at least discussed by UCAP.

B. APP & R Process

Given the Committee's concerns about this issue during the current year, two aspects stand out for continued examination. One concerns the practical aspects of collecting the APP & R information; the other concerns policy or programmatic changes that occur as a result of information collected in this year's APP & R process.

C. Possible action on recommendations in the Report of the International Review Committee

D. Review of the Academic Governance system and the role of standing committees.

3. Problems for Committee Operations

Lack of stud participation

Identify of issues by the community

Evolving concepts of role/responsibilities

4. Suggestions for Changes to Academic Governance