

## Annual Report, 1995-1996

### University Committee on Academic Policy Rachel F. Schiffman, Chairperson

#### Meetings held:

9/7/95; 9/21/95; 10/19/95; 11/2/95; 11/16/95; 11/30/95; 1/11/96; 1/25/96; 2/8/96; 2/22/96; 3/14/96;  
3/28/96; 4/11/96; 4/25/96

#### 1. Description of Committee Activities

##### A. Grading Practices

Examined grades from Spring 1995 in relation to prior years. There was no need for action beyond review. Data on the distribution of grades were sent to the individual departments, per 1993-1994 UCAP recommendation.

Grade trends for Fall 1995 were reviewed and found to be consistent with prior years. There was a slight increase in freshman gpa which may have resulted from the Early Warning System.

Graduation with honor/high honor was examined. Review of data since 1965 revealed a slowly rising percent in the last few years but still within the 20% guideline anticipated by UCAP. No change in standards was recommended.

##### B. Commercial Notetaking

Approved a clarification of the University policy on commercial notetaking which was subsequently approved by Academic Council on 2/27/96. A sentence was added to the Code of Teaching Responsibility and a new subsection was added to the General Procedures and Regulations section of Academic Programs.

##### C. APP&R Process

Met with Martha Hesse, Senior Presidential Advisor for Strategic Planning and Budgets and Assistant Provost, and Sandra Gleason, Planning Director, Office of Planning and Budgets concerning the 1995-1996 APP&R process. Several documents were provided for the Committee and concern about the academic indicators for teaching were the focus of discussion.

Met with Provost Simon about the outcomes of the 1994-1995 APP&R process. She outlined the operating budget and the distribution of funds. She also addressed future prospects. In later Committee discussions, members expressed concern about direction of changes and the need for discussion of contemplated changes with faculty. Consistent with the April 1993 UCAP position, the Committee will continue to consult with the Provost about APP&R and policy implications.

##### D. Review of Academic Governance/CQI

Discussed the role of UCAP in Academic Governance. There were questions about the blurring of roles with other Governance Committees (UGC, UCC) as well as limited delegated authority. The consultative role of the Committee across a broad range of policies was seen to

be a strength by some. Two members of the Committee participated in a review of UCFA and UCAP using CQI process. The outcome was that UCAP should undergo restructuring but within the context of the review of the entire Governance system. This will continue as an agenda item.

E. Early Warning System

Reviewed and discusses the Early Warning System for freshmen. Concerns were expressed that requests to faculty for assessment of student performance may come too early in the term to be realistic. Reports on the number of warnings issued for Fall and Spring were provided. There were proportionally fewer students on probation in Fall 1995 than in Fall 1994. Results from student surveys were also presented. There was no UCAP action taken.

F. International Programs/Overseas Studies

Met with Vice President Charles Greenleaf and John Hudzik, Acting Dean of International Studies and Programs to review the recommendations from the recently completed reviews of the international studies and programs. There was general Committee support for the recommendations but concern expressed about the commitment of resources to attain these goals.

G. Deletion of Thematic Programs

Thematic Programs have been replaced by Specializations. Approved the deletion of Thematic Programs as University policy. This was subsequently approved by Academic Council.

H. North Central Association Accreditation Report

Provided response to drafts of the NCA Accreditation Report with a focus on the references to UCAP.

I. Review of Academic Characteristics of Entering Students

Reviewed the results of academic characteristics of students entering in Fall 1995 as compared to 1994. Responses of students about their expectations, feelings, and past performance from 1993 and 1994 surveys were reviewed. No action was taken.

J. Semester Transition Evaluation

Was informed about the various aspects which will be included in the review of semester transition including: progress toward a degree, departmental evaluation of program changes, student learning outcomes, annual enrollment, and review of Centers for Integrative Studies. Three members of the Committee were actively involved in the review of the Centers for Integrative Studies. The final report to the Centers review will be done at the beginning of the next academic year. The transition evaluation will also continue into next year.

K. Field Trips

Discussed the concern about the scheduling of required field trips in one course which conflict with other scheduled courses. Was discussed in Committee and in Faculty Council. The Committee perspective was that this is a faculty issue and that students should not be responsible to solve the conflict created by faculty. A report was sent to Steering Committee. A letter from the UCAP Chair will be sent to faculty identifying the issue, reiterating University policy, and suggesting ways to avoid creating conflict for students.

L. English Language Proficiency

Recommended removing a discrepancy in the regulations involving the provisional admission of international undergraduate students with a deficiency in English language competence by eliminating the two consecutive semesters time limit.

M. Honors College Report

Reviewed the Report of the Honors College Review Committee. UCAP concurred with the conclusions of the Review Committee and encouraged implementation of the recommendations. The motion was forwarded to the Steering Committee.

N. University Awards

Reviewed the proposal to alter the committee compositions for the selection of University awards. UCAP felt that while the rationale for the changes were not supported by evidence the proposal involved features which would be improvements over the status quo. UCAP moved to endorse the proposal with amendments to include representation from noncollege faculty. The motion was forwarded to Steering Committee.

O. Calendar Issues

Discussed the possibility of having a longer Thanksgiving break, of moving the Spring semester break to later in the semester, and of establishing an official day to celebrate Martin Luther King Day. In addition, concerns about the content and length of Fall Welcome Week were also discussed. Welcome Week is not part of the University academic calendar and no changes in the format were suggested at this time. UCAP moved to not recommend any changes in Thanksgiving break, Spring break, or the observance of Martin Luther King Day. A suggestion was made to better inform students of the policy related to the celebration of Martin Luther King Day. The motions and suggestion were forwarded to Steering Committee.

P. University Awards Ceremony

Began discussion of alternate approaches to faculty and student recognition. Will be continued next year.

2. Matters Pending before the Committee, 1996-1997

- A. Review of Academic Governance  
Participate in the review of the system.
- B. Review of Interim Procedures on Handling Allegations of Misconduct in Scholarship
- C. Semester Transition Evaluation
  - i. Review results of review of Centers for Integrative Studies
  - ii. Review results of other components of the evaluation
- D. APP&R  
Continue discussion with Administration about outcomes of the process regarding policy and programmatic changes.
- E. University Awards Ceremony  
Review recommendations of UCAP subcommittee for alternative recognition of faculty and students.

3. Problems for Committee Operations

The Committee continues to grapple with the uncertainty about roles and responsibilities and with the flow of issues from administration rather than from student and faculty.

4. Suggestions for Change

Will participate in the review of the entire governance system. The restructuring of one committee cannot take place without the impact on other committees and the system as a whole.