

University Committee on Academic Policy Annual Report

Committee Name: University Committee on Academic Policy (UCAP)

Chairperson: R. Sekhar Chivukula

**Meetings Held: 2007: Aug 30, Sep 13, Sept 27, Oct 11, Oct 25, Nov 8, Nov 29
2008: Jan 10, Jan 24, Feb 7, Feb 14, Feb 21, Mar 13, Mar 27, Apr 3, Apr 10, Apr 24**

Meetings Canceled: 2007: Dec 13

Give a brief description of committee activities and/or issues discussed and actions taken/recommendations made and to whom.

1. Considered request to add an academic standards statement in the Bachelor of Science degree in Clinical Laboratory Sciences (CLS). Committee delayed a decision pending receipt of additional information requested from CLS. (9/13/07)
2. Committee considered and supported the proposal to split the Department of Marketing and Supply Chain Management. (9/27/07)
3. Committee considered and supported the request to add an admission requirement to the Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Studio Art. (10/11/07)
4. Committee considered and supported the request to require a grade-point requirement in the Bachelor of Science Degree in Park, Recreation, and Tourism Resources with a revision in the proposed catalogue language. (10/25/07)
5. Committee considered request to require an admission requirement for Interior Design, delaying its decision pending receipt of additional information requested from the Interior Design Program. (10/25/07)
6. Committee considered UCC request for clarification of the relationship between the Specialization and the Major, and the request to change the minimum number of credit hours for an Academic Minor. The committee deferred action, recommending that UCC consider revisions to the proposed language. (10/25/08)
7. Committee briefed by Prof. Dennis Banks, UCAP representative to MSU Athletic Council, on the Athletic Council meeting of Oct. 4, 2007 and on the meeting of the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics Faculty Summit held on Oct. 15, 2007, in Washington DC. Prof. Banks also reviewed MSU's membership in the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA). (10/25/07)
8. Committee considered and supported the request to establish a Specialization in Entrepreneurship and require a grade-point average. (11/8/07)
9. Committee considered and supported the request for grade-point average change for admission to Bachelor of Music in Music Education. (11/8/07)
10. Committee reconsidered and supported UCC's request to change the minimum number of credit hours for an Academic Minor as resubmitted on November 6, 2007. (e-mail vote, as per UCAP guidelines adopted for 2007-8 academic year, 11/15/07)
11. UCAP meeting scheduled for December 13, 2007 was cancelled due to lack of quorum. (11/15/08)

12. Committee considered and supported the request to exceed 120 credits for the Bachelor of Music Degree in Music Therapy. (1/10/08)
13. Committee briefed by Prof. Dennis Banks, UCAP representative to MSU Athletic Council, on the Athletic Council meeting of January 10, 2008. (1/10/08)
14. The committee will convene an extra meeting on February 14 in order to attend to all committee business prior to academic year-end. (1/24/08)
15. Committee considered and supported the request to change the admission to the College requirements in the College of Engineering. (1/24/08)
16. Committee considered and supported the request to change the graduation requirements for all majors in the College of Engineering. (1/24/08)
17. Committee considered and supported the request to clarify current practice for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree in Nursing. (1/24/08)
18. Committee approved a draft policy on Undergraduate Learning Assistants (ULA) with the understanding that a statement defining the term Undergraduate Learning Assistant will be incorporated into the "Overview". (1/24/08)
19. Committee finalized and approved the addition of a definition of Undergraduate Learning Assistant to the ULA draft document, approved at the UCAP meeting on January 24, 2008. (2/7/08)
20. Committee heard a proposal for a Sustainability Specialization, brought to UCAP because it does not lie in a particular college and therefore does not have the typical departmental and college-level curriculum development process. The Committee provided feedback to the presenters. (2/7/08)
21. Committee considered, and deferred to its next meeting, the request to establish a minor in Music with an audition requirement for admission. (2/7/08)
22. Committee considered, and deferred to its next meeting, the request to change the admission requirements for the specialization in Public Relations. (2/7/08)
23. Committee considered, and deferred to its next meeting, the request to require a grade point of 2.0 in selected courses within the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work. (2/7/08)
24. Committee considered and supported the request to change the admission as a junior requirements for the Bachelor of Science Degree in Athletic Training. (2/7/08)
25. Committee considered and supported the request to change the admission requirements for the specialization in Public Relations. (2/14/08)
26. Committee considered and supported the request to establish a minor in Music with an audition requirement for admission. (2/14/08)
27. Committee considered and supported the request to require a grade point of 2.0 in selected courses within the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work. (2/14/08)
28. Committee briefed by Prof. Dennis Banks, UCAP representative to MSU Athletic Council, on the Athletic Council meeting of February 14, 2008. (2/14/08)
29. Discussion and subcommittee work on Religious Observance policy. (ongoing, UCAP response to Academic Assembly Bill # 14-41, Academic Governance Pending Log item 07-08:5)
30. Committee convened an additional meeting on April 3, 2008 to discuss the Academic Integrity Proposal. (3/13/08)

31. Committee provided responses to the Provost on his questions regarding the Undergraduate Learning Assistants proposal approved by the committee in February 2008 (3/27/08).
32. Committee considered and supported the request to add an academic standards statement in the Bachelor of Science Degree in Clinical Laboratory Sciences. (3/27/08)
33. Committee approved a draft policy on the Integrity of Scholarships and Grades, amended to incorporate item 6 in the existing policy into the draft, to go forward to ECAC and academic governance for approval. (4/10/08)
34. Committee recommended to the University Committee on Student Affairs that the Academic Freedom Report be modified to centralize the adjudication of instances of academic dishonesty. (4/10/08)
35. Committee provided response to Provost's request for feedback on the proposed change in the academic year start date. (4/10/08)
36. Committee approved a draft proposal on Students' Religious Observance with attached guidelines, to go forward to ECAC and academic governance for approval. (4/10/08)
37. Committee considered and supported the request to establish a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Apparel and Textile Design with a stated admission requirement. (4/10/08)
38. The committee considered and supported, with recommended modifications, the request to establish a specialization in Sales Leadership Communication with a stated admission requirement and grade point requirement as submitted April 8, 2008. (4/10/08)
39. UCAP elected R. Sekhar Chivukula as the committee chairperson for 2008-09 academic year. (4/24/08)
40. Committee recommended that the Sustainability Specialization proposal and future proposals of this type be housed in academic units, presumably a consortium of colleges, with a single college as the lead academic unit. That is, no change in Policy is recommended at this time. (4/24/08)
41. Committee strongly urges that those who have developed the Sustainability Specialization be informed immediately of this decision and be encouraged to submit the proposal to the relevant college curriculum committee(s) so it can be considered by the University Committee on Curriculum (UCC) in the near future. The Committee believes that the University would be well served to have a Sustainability Specialization and thus further delays in processing of this request are undesirable. (4/10/08)
42. Committee considered and supported the modified proposal of the request to change the admission as a junior in Business Administration statement as submitted to UCAP on April 24, 2008. (4/24/08)
43. Committee considered and supported the request to change the admission requirement for Advertising. (4/24/08)
44. Committee briefed by Prof. Dennis Banks, UCAP representative to Athletic Council, on the Athletic Council meeting of April 17, 2008. (4/24/08)

Comment on matters pending before the committee and matters that should be considered in 2008-09.

In 2008-9 UCAP will follow the progress through the MSU Academic Governance system of two proposals made in 2007-8: modification of the MSU Religious Observance Policy (item 36 above) and recommended changes to the MSU Academic Integrity Policy and the Academic Freedom Report (item 33 above). UCAP will consider and respond to UCC Comprehensive Proposals 1,4,5, and 6. Finally, as instructed by Faculty Council, UCAP will work with Athletic Council to facilitate communication between the faculty governance and the MSU athletic program. Comment on problems and/or issues that have made the work of the committee more difficult.

The largest problem that UCAP has encountered is in the review of academic program change proposals (these proposals are usually referred to UCAP from UCC). In particular, many Departments and Colleges do not provide sufficient documentation for the rationale and impact of the proposed changes, leaving UCAP in the position of having to (often repeatedly) request additional information. UCAP will work with UCC and the Registrar's Office to formulate a more complete set of questions to transmit to Departments and Colleges to streamline the process of considering changes to Academic Programs.

Please make any suggestions about how the academic governance system might be modified to improve the committee's work.