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COMMITTEE ON ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID

ANNUAL REPORT

1984-1985

A. Membership

Faculty members serving on the Committee this year were Linda Hildebrand, chair; Luellen Ramey, Louis Bragg, Pat Strauss, and Gary Shepherd. Shepherd was replaced by Asish Nag in January 1985. Students representatives were Pete Arbour (replaced by Keith McGraw who was later replaced by Lonnel Coats), Keith Faber, Leah Lowry and Eric Winter. Marilyn Bomar represented the Alumni Association. Ex officio members were Tom Evans, Controller; Cleveland Hurst, Student Services; Eleanor Lewellen, Student Affairs; Jerry Rose, Admissions Office; and Steve Lesser, Financial Aid.

B. Committee Activities

The major activity of the Committee this year was the revision of the Undergraduate Admissions Policy. The previous year the Committee had gathered information concerning admissions standards and procedures at other universities for the University Commission on Excellence. The resulting report produced by the Commission on Excellence included an entire chapter devoted to admissions and a number of recommendations. The Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid reviewed this section of the report, discussed the findings and recommendations and spent a great deal of time developing a revised Undergraduate Admissions Policy that imposed stricter admissions standards. The revised Policy was forwarded to the Senate Steering Committee for placement on a Senate agenda and the new policy was approved by the Senate with a number of additions and amendments in April, 1985.

The Committee also reviewed the section of the COE report on financial aid. Some preliminary work was done regarding the recommendations of the Commission on Excellence, for example, a subcommittee (Ramey and Lesser) developed a draft of an assessment form recommended on p. 61 of the report. However time grew short as the school year drew to a close and the Committee decided to take this up as an item of business next year.

C. Work in progress needing Senate approval

None at the moment.

D. Agenda items for 1985-86

Agenda items for the coming year include:

- a. Further review of the COE report regarding financial aid.
- b. Consideration of the assessment form recommended by the COE concerning students' experiences and perceptions of the Financial Aid Office.
- c. Development of a mechanism to enable the Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid to report each year to the Senate on the distribution of scholarships and financial aid funds
- d. Review of Student Life Scholarships.
- e. Financial aid needs of transfer, commuter and upperclass students.
- f. Upperclass student achievement scholarships.
- g. Levels of unmet financial need and investigation of solutions.
- h. Review of the different internal admissions policies.

E. Observations on the Committee

It is a very large Committee (15 members) with a substantial number of ex-officio members. One difficulty is, of course, finding a meeting time convenient to all. Also, every year as committee members are appointed a certain amount of education is required with regard to the policies and procedures of the two administrative offices, the Admissions Office and the Financial Aid Office. This is most particularly true of new members but also for continuing members since policies and procedures do change. This takes time and occasionally must be repeated if membership changes during the year. The students on this Committee have been extremely conscientious, attending the meetings faithfully and taking part in the discussions. However, there is a bit of a problem in that they are appointed in January and serve January to December. This means that the student membership changes in mid year with regard to the Committee's work, thus necessitating a repeat of the educational process mentioned above.

Submitted by

Linda L. Hildebrand

Linda L. Hildebrand
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