

# Memorandum

To: Dr. Dagmar Cronn, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chair, Senate Steering Committee

CC: Kevin Andrews, Chair, SPRC, Linda Hildebrand, Secretary, University Senate

From: C. Michelle Piskulich, Chair, Senate Planning Review Committee 1996-1997 *CMP*

Date: November 5, 1997

Re: Annual Report

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The Senate Planning Review Committee for the 1996-1997 academic year had the following membership: C. Michelle Piskulich, chair, Kevin Andrews, Pete Bertocci (winter), Gadis (Buck) Dillon, Bob Eberwein (fall), Abe Liboff, Dave Shantz, Maura Selehowski, and Laura Schartman (ex-officio), and Scott Andrews (student representative).

**CHARTER SCHOOLS:** The Senate Planning Review Committee decided in July 1996 that chartering Public School Academies fell within the charge given the committee by the Senate. As a result, the committee began meeting in early August to consider public school academies recommended by PSAARC. We recommended the following schools to the Senate: Dove Academy, Edison Public School Academy, Michigan Academy of Global Entrepreneurship, Nsoroma Institute, Elbert Clark Thomas Academy, Michigan Institute of Technology, and the Turtle Island Learning Circle. The committee recommended the Senate not approve the Lucey Craft Laney Institute of Learning.

While the committee generally concurred with the recommendations by PSAARC, there were three concerns that reoccurred throughout the year. (1) The applications are difficult to judge due to inadequate documentation and vary widely in quality. (2) The *process for approving Public School Academies* provided timelines that were too short for Senate and Senate committee deliberation. The committee worked with the administration and PSAARC to establish a timetable for reviewing PSA applications that would include the Senate. Unfortunately, the timetable still did not allow enough lead time and by April PSAARC and SPRC were in agreement that earlier deadlines for PSA applicants needed to be established to allow a full review by relevant committees and the University Senate. (3) The committee *had serious concerns about the curriculum plans* in several of the proposals. Public School Academies by their nature are intended to break with traditional modes of education but the committee wondered if Oakland University had an ethical responsibility to verify that the curriculum offered is scientifically sound. Finally, the Senate Planning Review Committee also requested that periodic reports on Oakland University's experience in relation to charter schools be prepared by the Charter School Oversight Committee.

SPRC

**ATHLETICS:** The committee met with the Athletic Review Committee and reviewed its report and supported the recommendation that Oakland University make the *transition to Division 1AAA*. The committee recommended the development of a clear transition plan, requested explanation of new administrative positions within the athletic department, and that issues of gender equity be addressed and monitored by the department. The committee also recommended that the Senate establish a standing committee on athletics.

**PROGRAM REVIEWS:** The committee in accordance with its charge, reviewed a number of program proposals in 1996-1997.

PROGRAM	UNIT	DISPOSITION
MA Biology	CAS	Approved
MS Nursing: Nurse Practitioner	Nursing	Approved
MS Nursing: Adult Health	Nursing	Approved
MS Training and Development	SEHS	Approved with concerns
Ph.D. Counseling	SEHS	Deferred
Ph.D. Early Childhood Education	SEHS	Deferred
Ph.D. Instruction and Leadership	SEHS	Deferred

The committee worked closely with each unit requesting a program review and often welcomed representatives from the units to meet with the committee to discuss the program proposals. We found this model was useful. The SEHS PhDs were deferred to the fall because the documentation in the proposals was incomplete. The nursing proposals were exemplary in meeting the informational needs of the committee.

**CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS:**

PROGRAM	UNIT	DISPOSITION
Educational Administration	SEHS	Approved

**REORGANIZATIONS:** The Committee approved the decentralization of *Continuing Education* and the establishment of the *Center for Biomedical Research*. We also reviewed the proposal to move the *Bachelor of General Studies* program to the College of Arts and Sciences and met with Susan Awbry, Assistant Vice-President for Academic Affairs to discuss the rationale for the reorganization. The issue was deferred to the fall.

**GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR NEW DEGREE PROGRAMS:** The long-awaited guidelines were finally adopted by the committee after two years of discussions with SBRC. These guidelines were developed to assist the committee in responding to its Senate charge to review proposals by academic units. However, the committee is *concerned that a document drafted in 1995 that would assist SPRC and SBRC in considering nonacademic requests was not integrated into this document* or deliberated separately. This document was broader in scope than the procedures adopted in October 1996 and necessary for guaranteeing that the information necessary to committee deliberations is available. Such guidelines would have been useful to the committee in its deliberations over the decentralization of continuing education and the proposed move of the Bachelor of General Studies Program to the College of Arts and Sciences.

As outgoing chair, I thank the committee members for their dedication, flexibility, and participation during the year. I thank Bill Connellan, Keith Kleckner, Brian Goslin, George Dahlgren, and President Russi for their cooperation and willingness to consult. I also thank all those who appeared before the committee and assisted in its deliberations.