

MEMORANDUM

TO: Tamara Machmut-Jhashi
Secretary, University Senate

FROM: Mary Stein
Chair, Senate Planning & Review Committee (2008-2009)

RE: Chair's Annual Report on SPRC Activities during 2008-2009

DATE: July 27, 2009

This has been a relatively quiet academic year for work on the Senate Planning Review Committee (SPRC). The committee completed all assignments received from the Senate Steering Committee. The following reviews were completed and a report sent to the Senate via the Senate Steering Committee:

1. Review of Documentation for the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWBSM)
2. A new undergraduate Major in Cinema Studies

For each of these, a timely review was required and the committee had to convene quickly to deliberate. Nonetheless, committee members worked diligently to complete our reviews carefully and thoroughly so as to provide the Senate with the essential feedback they require. Based on the documentation received, the committee supported the establishment of the OUWBSM and also articulated four implications for consideration in its report to Senate. The committee also supported the establishment of a new major in Cinema Studies with approval of one track, Critical Studies in Film, and support for the development of a second track in Digital Film Production. As mandated, program reports were shared with UCUI and SBRC via the respective chairs of those committees. As part of our charge, SPRC is required to meet with the SBRC during the academic year to share mutual issues. However, during each semester there was no new business forwarded to either committee until late in the semester so these meetings did not occur.

For the review of documentation for OUWBSM, the committee could not find information on the committee processes used when other academic units had been established at Oakland University. The committee utilized the committee charge and the Senate Constitution to guide our work. A request from Senate specifying the nature of the review and the parameters would have assisted the committee. The Senate Planning Review Committee would like to strongly reiterate the recommendations forwarded by

the 2007 and 2008 Senate Planning Review Committee chairs (Frances Jackson, 2007; Richard Rozek, 2008). In order to ensure timely review of all new degree proposals, the Senate should establish a deadline date of January 1 for receipt of all proposals that have been approved by the appropriate College/School curriculum committee and faculty assembly for any degree scheduled to start the following September. The proposal for the new undergraduate major in Cinema Studies was not received by the committee until March, 2008. This created a burdensome schedule for committee members in order to complete our work in time for it to be reviewed by Senate before the end of the academic year.

It has been a pleasure to serve the university this year. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all 2008-2009 SPRC committee members for their efforts during this past year.

Committee Members

Mary Stein (School of Education & Human Services), Chair
Mukesh Bhargava (School of Business Administration)
Frances Jackson (School of Nursing)
Ingrid Rieger (Modern Languages & Literatures)
Gautam Singh (School of Engineering & Computer Science)
George Stoffan (Music, Theater, & Dance)
Susan Awbrey, Senior Associate Provost
Claire Rammel, Director of Graduate Study
Laura Schartman, Director of Institutional Research and Assessment
Christina Grabowski, Associate Director Grad Study/Lifelong Learning Graduate Study