

**Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Minutes
February 12, 1987**

Attendance: Robert Meyers, Sheila Corcoran, Leisa Knych, John Clark, Marvin Mattson, Lawrence Goodman, Mary Young, Gretchen Kreuter (ex officio), Susan Collison, Andrew Collins (chair), Patricia Thomas (staff), Naomi Scheman, Ian Maitland, Crystal Hanscome, and Roland Guyotte (via phone from Morris).

Guests: John Taborn, Sallye McKee, and John Wallace.

Special Committee on Minority Programs in Support for Commitment to Focus

John Taborn, Chair of the Special Committee, stated that there were few substantive changes in the Interim Report from his December report to SCEP. He defined those people targeted in the report as being of minority origin and not international students. He also made the distinction between high ability students (those identified by high scores on standard tests) and high potential students (those with ability that did not score well on the standard tests). When the report refers to Graduate School, it also includes the professional schools. The Committee is preparing data which shows approximate costs of implementing the recommendations.

Discussion followed. Lawrence Goodman commended the Committee on its excellent report and suggested that it would be stronger with cost estimates. He also said that he had trouble with the inclusion of all Asians as a minority category. Southeast Asians and those of Oriental descent who have been in this country for generations are different from the newly arriving Asians. This is important in recruitment of students because the data is based on government guidelines. Sallye McKee pointed out that the report does make this distinction in its section on faculty (p.11).

John Clark observed that the overall intent of the report is directed at management. He asked if it emphasized sufficiently the packaging or content of the educational experience here. The notion of batch recruiting seems to be more successful than throwing individuals into a majority (white) program. Would this lower the dropout rates and improve retention? He asked if there were some way to structure the whole experience to develop a cultural support climate for minority students. John Taborn said the report answered the charge requirements and did not specifically address this issue. He said the literature says faculty involvement is the key to successful minority academic experiences, even above the programs. Andrew Collins noted that the report's recommendations tend to focus on academic and student support services rather than focus on faculty involvement in programs.

Mary Young asked if, as the University's status increases with Commitment to Focus, we would have better luck recruiting high potential minority students. John Taborn said that if the University implements these recommendations and publicizes the

results, it should. The question of student involvement was also raised.

Andrew Collins will forward to the Senate his motion endorsing this report and will send to John Taborn a letter documenting SCEP's recommendations.

Implementation Task Force on Undergraduate Education

John Wallace, Chair of the Task Force, said the report being circulated is a draft of a preliminary report. The Task Force is still working toward the final report. Robert Meyers said that active learning should be more strongly worded in the report. He asked how the faculty would be trained in using active learning techniques, and also suggested that more emphasis be placed on rewarding outstanding teaching at the undergraduate level. John Wallace stated that the University does invest in faculty development. However, the fact that it happens is the large element of preaching to the converted; a large part of the faculty is never touched by it.

Crystal Hanscome asked how tenured faculty were motivated to improve teaching, especially in the sciences where most of the monies comes from research. John Wallace said that if the allocation of resources to the departments is based on these recommendations, it would motivate all faculty. The intrinsic factors of working with a successful program are enormous.

Lawrence Goodman said he had a strong objection to recommendation #3 on page 6 under "Central". He believes that all student evaluations should be signed. The whole issue of faculty evaluation is one that needs more discussion.

Liberal Education Requirements Subcommittee

Gretchen Kreuter, Chair of the Subcommittee, said the Subcommittee had been meeting weekly during Winter Quarter. It had identified five major issues to be addressed. She said that some of the issues are so broad that the subcommittee could not resolve them. IT is recommending that an Assembly Committee be established which would address all undergraduate issues. Andrew Collins suggested, given the time constraints of this meeting, that the proposed motion be put on the February 26 Agenda. He will also discuss this motion with Ellen Berscheid, Chair of the Senate Consultative Committee.

Gretchen Kreuter also submitted for SCEP's consideration a resolution proposing that the twenty largest introductory courses be given extra funds to improve teaching and course content. Lawrence Goodman said that it was necessary to monitor funds carefully to make sure departments didn't reduce their allocations to these classes then. It is important that the money be tied to specific courses. Both issues will be discussed further on February 26.