

M E M O R A N D U M

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*Vice President for
Academic Affairs*

DATE: July 21, 1994

TO: Gary Russi, Vice President
Academic Affairs

FROM: Charles Lindemann, Chair Senate Committee
on Admissions and Financial Aid

RE: Annual Report of the Admissions and
Financial Committee for 1993-94

Charles Lindemann

The Committee Roster for 1993-94 included:

Faculty Members

Charles Lindemann
Faye Cobb
Sheila Jacobs
Stephen Wright

Student Members

Tracy Polega
Gary Kirsh
Fariha Masud

Ex Officio Members

Lee Anderson
Anne Sandoval

As you know, since the departure of Jerry Rose, Ann Sandoval has filled the role of active director of admissions while still retaining most of her duties as recruiter on field visits to high schools. Consequently, Anne has had a difficult schedule to meet and I have tried not to burden her office with heavy demands for data procurements (as the Committee had done with Jerry Rose the previous year). The Committee has been involved in the search to replace Jerry Rose and has met with the candidates for the new position of Associate V.P. for Enrollment Management. It is vital that a new administrative structure is in place before major initiatives in admission, recruiting and financial aid are undertaken. It is our hope that the selection process will be completed soon.

The Senate Steering Committee in its communication this year did not provide any specific agenda beyond advising that we "interpret this (the Committee's) charge broadly and take an active role in improving conditions at Oakland University".

The Committee undertook an initiative to examine the issue of minority retention at Oakland. This is an issue which has been given high priority in the strategic planning document which has been produced by the strategic plan task forces. As chair, I was requested to gather information on minority retention from the Registrars Office to examine the extent and nature of the problem. I communicated with Laura Schartman, Assistant Registrar, asking for a breakdown of the pertinent information (memo attached). I received a limited response and I was told that Oakland does not have cohort tracking information of the kind the Committee requested (also attached). I was told that the university was aware of this short-coming and efforts are underway to upgrade our institutional information base. The Committee was able to reach no conclusions from the limited data which is available. We do feel that this is an important issue

which should be pursued as information becomes more accessible. In particular, the impact of admission standards on subsequent retention should be addressed by the Committee. The current institutional emphasis on growth tends to generate pressure to decrease admission standards. Consequently we should have an informed awareness of the relationship between GPA at admission and cohort retention if we are to implement any changes in admission standards. This type of information should be obtained for all populations of students currently serviced by Oakland. I hope the Committee will make this a priority next year, as it will likely become an important issue in deciding how to best implement the strategic plan.

Enclosure