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MEMORANDUM

TO: Frederick W. Obear
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

FROM: William Jones, Chair *Wm Jones*
University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction

DATE: June 15, 1981

SUBJECT: UCUI Annual Report

The University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction experienced a moderately active year. Members were active, attendance at meetings was excellent and the committee members blended well and worked together productively.

Following is a list of the items considered by the committee.

1. Reviewed the proposal for the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and forwarded the proposal to the APPC with a recommendation of approval.
2. Reviewed the proposal for a major in Dance under the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree rubric and forwarded the proposal to the APPC with a recommendation of approval.
3. Reviewed the Provost's Office proposal that the registration dates for the Winter, 1981 semester be altered. No objections to the proposal were voiced and the Provost's Office was so notified.
4. Reviewed the proposal from the College of Arts and Sciences that the prefix GRY be designated for courses in gerontology. The proposal was approved and the College of Arts and Sciences was notified.
5. Reviewed a proposal from the School of Engineering for a new major in Engineering Physics. The proposal was approved and the School of Engineering so notified.
6. Reviewed the College of Arts and Sciences proposal for the establishment of an undergraduate Area Studies Major involving study in a complementary area. The committee approved the proposal and the College of Arts and the APPC was so notified.

7. Reviewed the proposal for new readmission policies at the university. The committee found no objection to the basic policy but asked for clarification regarding the catalog to be followed for graduation requirements. The committee recommended to the Committee on Academic Standing and Honors that "An undergraduate student may not follow the graduation requirements specified in any university catalog in effect prior to the student's matriculation at the university; an undergraduate student may not follow the graduation requirements specified in any university catalog more than six years old at the time of graduation."
8. Reviewed the recommendation from the Director of Administrative Services that the 1981-82 calendar be revised with the intention of saving money. The recommendation was approved but with strong reservations regarding the decreasing class time available to faculty and students and with the request that the time lost with this move be restored at the earliest possible date.
9. Reviewed the proposal from the School of Engineering that:

the general engineering option and the computer, electrical, mechanical and systems specialization be redesigned as majors.

The proposal was approved and the College of Engineering and the Office of the Provost so notified.

Comments

Approval of the described items usually followed considerable discussion and often the reworking and/or the clarification of proposals or recommendations prior to approval. The descriptions of action taken are simple and not representative of the attention given by the UCUI to each of these items.

The Committee remained somewhat perplexed at its charge which it still considers rather cumbersome and unspecific. Although it appears that the charge may nearly be that of the old APC, the UCUI charge as it exists is not particularly helpful. The UCUI recommends that some attention be given to the clarification of the charge.

The UCUI is a rather strange entity. It is a standing committee of the APPC, with the chair appointed by the Senate upon recommendation of the Steering Committee. It reports to the Senate, as is demonstrated by the submission of this annual report. Yet, it carries out work submitted to it by a variety of means most of which do not involve the APPC or the Senate directly. This serves to create some confusion regarding the relationship between APPC and UCUI and this needs clarification.

Future Considerations

There are several items the Committee believes should be reviewed by the 1981-1982 University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction. They are:

1. Should the parameters for a major be spelled out in greater detail by the university? (Particularly as to semester hours required?)
2. Should more specific degree designations be given on diplomas and transcripts? For example, should the degree now read "Bachelor of Science in Engineering" as compared to "Bachelor of Science"? (There was some sentiment toward greater specificity and it is perhaps time to review this policy.)
3. The grievance procedures to be utilized by a student grieving an academically related issue should be reviewed. Schools and Colleges should have on file in the Provost's Office descriptions of specific procedures to be followed in such matters. Several such grievances were filed by students during 1980-81 and descriptions of procedures to be followed were not always available.

The 1980-81 UCUI was an excellent committee having performed its tasks with care and in good speed made possible to a large extent by the ignoring of the confusion surrounding its heirarchical position.

WHJ:cb