

To: University Senate

From: Senate Planning & Review Committee
Frances Jackson, Chair

Re: Annual Report

This has been a busy and rewarding year for the SPRC. The committee completed all assignments received from Senate Steering. The following program reviews were completed and a report sent to the Senate via the Senate Steering Committee:

1. Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting, Musical Theatre, Theatre Design and Technology, and Dance.
2. B.S. in Engineering Biology
3. B.S. Applied Health Sciences
4. B.S.W. Social Work
5. B.A. International Relations
6. PhD in Computer Science and Informatics

Also as mandated, program reports were shared with UCUI and SBRC via the respective chairs of those committees. SPRC met with SBRC twice during this academic year and shared mutual concerns and issues. One issue of concern shared by both committees is the increasing number of partnerships being developed without input from appropriate faculty review bodies. This concern took on greater urgency with the announcement of the impending private medical school planned for this campus.

Positively, we note the increasing number of programs that represent interdisciplinary collaboration between departments on this campus. Most notable from the list above are the programs in International Relations and Engineering Biology. Both programs involve multiple academic departments which gives additional strength and credibility to the proposed degrees. We applaud those departments for these efforts, recognizing the additional time and effort required for these types of collaborations.

The committee has two recommendations we would like the Senate to consider. First, 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. Any proposals received after January 1 cannot be implemented the following fall semester because the review committees need a reasonable time to conduct a review and allow for responses to committee concerns. The current guidelines suggest allowing six weeks for committee reviews. A January deadline date to Senate Steering will ensure that all review bodies have ample time to conduct program reviews before the March Senate meeting so that two readings of each proposal can be completed in a timely fashion by the Senate. When proposals are

received by Senate Steering after January, and with the other proposals being reviewed, the pressure on the review bodies to complete a review in time for the Senate March agenda does not provide for a complete and thorough review.

The second recommendation is that the Senate will ask the Provost to appoint a faculty ad hoc committee that will review the agreement for the proposed medical school and make recommendations to the Senate on any matters of academic importance, including forwarding appropriate items to established Senate Review bodies.

It has been a pleasure to serve the university this year.

Committee Members

Frances Jackson, Chair

Mary Stein

Richard Rozek

Ivy Horn

Laura Schartman

Claire Rammel

Susan Awbrey