1976-77 Annual Report of the Academic Affairs Committee

The Academic Affairs Committee considered the following matters and took the following action:

Upon recommendation from the University Committee, studied UWM's computerized record-keeping and its impact on determination of student GPA's and found it to meet the intent of the faculty in approving the + and - grading system.

Discussed implementation of mandatory student evaluation of teaching as called for in the Merger Legislation. UWM is in technical compliance with the law, since every department claims some form of student evaluation of teaching. There was a consensus of committee members that the existing system with departmental-based evaluations appeared adequate in light of funding and time constraints. The possibility for future discussion is available when there might be better evidence of problems presented to the Committee.

Studied and recommended changes in the draft policy document, "A Plan for Implementing University of Wisconsin System Disciplinary Procedures at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee."

Proposed to the University Committee a calendar revision, beginning in 1978-79, which placed Spring recess in the 10th week of the Second Semester, and included Good Friday as a day off. Proposal passed.

A subcommittee also began discussions of alternatives to the semester system as a means of making better use of UWM's educational facilities.

Considered policies affecting course enrollment restrictions and gathered data on enrollment restriction policies from schools across the campus. No discernible pattern of undue hardship for students was found.

Considered the different incomplete policies in effect at UWM and proposed to the University Committee that a uniform incomplete policy be enacted for the campus. The proposal to the University Committee was that the policy on incompletes used by the Graduate School be extended campus-wide. Under this policy, an incomplete grade becomes a "withdrawal" from the course, if not removed during the following semester of enrollment or one year, whichever comes first.

Formally supported University Committee's proposal for legislation providing that the executive committee of any department may by a two-thirds vote admit tenured instructors and assistant professors to its membership.

Considered several student complaints regarding matters related to academic policy, among them:

1. Dorothy Spiegel's complaints involving denial of permission to repeat a course in the School of Nursing, was sent to this committee and other groups and individuals. A sub-committee investigated further to determine what sorts of student standards committees exist in departments at UWM and how they function. (In process)
2. Curtis Brzezinski's complaint raised the question of CLEP test performance acceptance by the UWM School of Business Administration with regard to granting credit or advanced standing based on CLEP test scores. Following inquiry of the School of Business Administration indicated that it was already considering CLEP test performance acceptance.

Considered a memo from the University Committee regarding efforts to increase enrollment and retention of minority students; responded to the University Committee that the need to improve enrollment and retention of minority students is worthy of consideration in the view of the Academic Affairs Committee; and that the University Committee should collect information about this; and that the Academic Affairs Committee is willing to consider information which relates directly to its own area of jurisdiction.

Further, since this topic is too broad to be considered by this committee alone, it was suggested that the University Committee set up either a task force or else a coordinator who would organize various study efforts and keep everyone informed about what's going on.

Chairman Sharon Murphy petitioned Chancellor Baum, with copies to John Solon, Leon Schur, that because of the frequent great bulk of material the Academic Affairs Committee must deal with, funds be made available to cover duplication of such materials. The petition urged that funds be allocated beginning in Fall, 1977.

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1976-77 Academic Affairs Committee
Edith Bjorklund
Daniel Burrell
Anthony Catanese (ex-officio)
William Duvall
James Fuchs (student)
Phyllis Goodman
Ivars Graudins (student)
Robert Krueger (ex-officio)
Charles Langford (student)
Marilyn Miller
Sharon Murphy (Chairman)
John Schroeder (ex-officio)
Daniel Ulrich (student)