MOTION

To form an ad hoc Program Array Review (PAR) review committee.

RATIONALE

As a final step in the PAR process, Faculty Document 2084 (Revised) provides that the "fAPBC will issue its own report on the quality and results of these program reviews." The Senate has received reports of the disposition of funds associated with PAR recommendations. What remains to be dealt with are issues of the quality of the reviews and the adequacy of the PAR process, along with any recommendations that the fAPBC may have for improvements in the process and procedures.

During the debate about Document 2084 in May 1997, senators raised fundamental questions about the propriety and methodologies of comparing disparate programs. Questions were raised about the nature of the data sets.

These questions persisted after the PAR report was made public. Professor Robert Moore (Mathematical Sciences) wrote a detailed critique of the algorithm and its application; other members of the faculty wrote or spoke about their concerns.

OVERVIEW

The University Committee asks that the faculty Academic Planning and Budget Committee (fAPBC) consider the processes and procedures of the PAR in light of its experience and of the concerns raised about them. Special consideration should be given to the meaning of productivity in the many disciplines of the University. Are there available instruments for programs like the PAR from which UWM might learn in refining the process? To what degree did the PAR subcommittees compensate for what they considered anomalous results in the data sets? Was the PAR process itself productive and efficient in terms of its cost in time, effort, and money?

The University Committee asks that these issues be addressed, but expects the ad hoc PAR review committee to create its final report and recommendations with the broadest possible range of issues in mind. We would ask that the report be submitted to the University Committee and thence to the Senate no later than September 1999.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The ad hoc review committee will consist of a total of six members to be appointed by the University Committee. Two of these members will be selected from the membership of the fAPBC. The remaining four members will be selected from the faculty at large.

Members, University Committee
Professor Randall Ryder, Chair
Professor Laurie Glass
Professor John (Jay) Moore
Professor Genevieve McBride
Professor James Sappenfield
Professor Gabrielle Verdier
Professor Yehuda Yannay

Revised: 4/99