

## **FACULTY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of Meeting of April 10, 1992**

**Present:** L. Anker, J. Fernandez, K. Hall, J. Harris, S. Kirkpatrick, P. McKeegan, P. O'Sullivan, G. Seidman

#### **I**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of March 27, 1992 were approved.

#### **II**

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

- A. A complaint has been filed with Faculty Personnel Matters Committee. Since such complaints are confidential, no details are available. Stephen will be meeting with Chris Griffin, Chair of Faculty Personnel Matters.
- B. The Performing Arts Department was asked to prepare a five year plan. Such plan has been prepared and Stephen has placed a copy of it in Janet's office.
- C. At the last Faculty Council meeting Dr. Pettigrew responded to the issues raised by the Chancellor, to wit, 1) too few first time to college students; 2) ethnic make-up of students. Stephen circulated Dr. Pettigrew's written response to the Chancellor.
- D. Mike Arons is preparing a response on hiring practice issues. Stephen will draft a report.
- E. Stephen announced scheduled interview meetings for candidates for the position of Vice-President for Student Affairs, and suggested Council members make an effort to attend.
- F. Stephen reported that he and Runi Mukherji will be meeting next week with Evelyn Garrity regarding the ELS proposal.

#### **III**

#### **BASIC EDUCATION**

- A. Jesse reported that in formulating the Basic Education implementation plan the Committee reviewed those recommendations previously put forth by CAP, the Basic Education Task Force and the Retention/Graduation Task Force. The Committee then prioritized these recommendations, and made suggestions for the restructuring of the administration of the Basic Education program.
- B. Council members raised several questions relative to Basic Education in general and to the delivery of support services for those students requiring skills courses. Stephen asked whether

Admissions criteria had been reviewed. Jesse said they had not been. A major problem area appears to be the testing format currently in place. Students need to be tested for reading as well as writing skills. Current testing (for writing skills) seems to be inconsistent. Also, far greater number of students emerge as math-deficient than writing-deficient. The number of students identified as appropriate for the Basic Education program fluctuates each year. A required Freshman course, e.g., Invitation to Learning, should receive priority. Additional content courses at the 1000 level with academic/skills tutors attached to them are needed. Need to avoid stigmatizing Basic Education students by creating a "college within a college."

- C. K. Hall raised the following questions: 1) Testing - when should this be done - before or after admission to the college? 2) Do we have evidence that tutors can work independently of courses? 3) Do the admissions criteria adequately identify students with the potential for success?

He commented that first time to college students should have courses available to them which combine skills and content; that resources should be re-directed into programs for skills support; that programs be responsible for hiring tutors. He suggested that administrative support would be available for program-based tutors for those programs which service freshmen.

- D. Stephen asked if the current implementation plan required modification as a result of the discussion. Jesse stated that he would like to incorporate some of the suggestions put forth and would work on the modification of the current document and should have it completed by the end of the semester.