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OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

REPORT FROM THE SENATE ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

1994-1995

Dr. Joyce Feist-Willis
Department of Early and Middle Childhood Education

Fall Quarter:

The committee met for the first time on October 11, 1994. At this meeting, Virginia Phillips, the elected Chair from the previous year, resigned as Chair. Margaret Horvath agreed to serve as Chair for the Fall Quarter. Since confusion existed regarding the role to be played by the committee, several questions were asked.

- A. Based on the new structure and current planning process, what is the role of the Senate Academic Planning Committee?
- B. Does the committee have an evolving role, a proactive role, or a special task that is vital to the current YSU process?
- C. The committee is seeking a relevant role in the new structure and requests the Provost provide information as to this role.

The Chair met with Provost Scanlon and Assistant Provost Cynthia Anderson to discuss these questions and clarify the role of the Academic Planning Committee given the new structure and current planning process.

On November 29, 1994 M. Horvath reported the results of her meeting with Provost Scanlon and Assistant Provost Anderson. The Provost indicated that the Academic Planning Committee (APC) reports to the Senate and serves an advisory role to the Provost (de facto). He suggested three possible agenda items for the APC which would define the future role of the committee.

- A. **ASSESSMENT PLAN TASK FORCE:** Dr. Anderson is in charge of writing the Institutional Assessment Plan along with the University Assessment Task Force. The APC would serve in a response role to the work being done by the University Assessment Task Force.
- B. **ANNUAL REPORTS:** There is a new format for these reports. The APC's responsibility would be to review the departmental and college reports for "internal consistency," "consistency with goals, mission, objectives," and the degree to which the report communicates the information. Comments from the APC would be directed to the individual departments and the deans.
- C. **CONCEPT PROPOSALS:** The APC will review these proposals prior to a "formal proposal" being prepared and sent to Columbus. The APC would make a recommendation to the Provost regarding the development of the full proposal.

Because of the retirement of Margaret Horvath in December, a new committee Chair, Joyce Feist-Willis, was chosen. Thus, the committee work for Fall Quarter was concluded.

WINTER QUARTER:

The committee met on January 26, 1995 at which time Dr. Anderson addressed several of the planning issues to be discussed and resolved over the next several months. She indicated that the APC could be of assistance in providing input to answer "The Five Criteria for Accreditation" for the North Central Association review of the University. These Criteria are published by the North Central Association.

The remainder of the quarter was spent in discussing each of the Criteria and its various subpoints individually. Four meetings in February and one meeting in March was devoted to this task. Generally, the committee members generated ideas and shared information regarding services, activities, programs, etc. which seemed to satisfy the requirement of each subpoint in Criteria One through Three of the North Central Association document.

SPRING QUARTER:

Work continued on "The Five Criteria for Accreditation" for the North Central Association. The committee culminated its work for the quarter by reviewing critically the Institutional Assessment Plan written by Dr. Anderson and Donna Esterly in conjunction with the University Assessment Task Force. At the May 18, 1995 meeting, members were asked to send written comments, concerns, questions, suggestions to Dr. Anderson.

As the APC members reflected upon the work completed, again, as in previous years, concerns were expressed concerning the future of the Academic Planning Committee. While the APC has fulfilled the charge assigned to it in the Fall Quarter, the question remains regarding whether or not the APC is truly a **planning committee**. If indeed the APC is to serve more as a reactive sounding board (as indicated in the three charges assigned in the Fall, 1995) rather than as a proactive long-term planning body, then perhaps the name of the committee needs to be changed. Such a name change would serve to clarify the newly assigned role.