

A Proposal to Change the Terms of Reference of the Long Range Academic Planning Committee -----Stan Wong

Move:

that the terms of reference of the Long Range Academic Planning Committee be changed from:

"to provide the means for an exchange of views on long range academic planning between all elements within the University"

to

"all proposals for a new academic program, degree, department, faculty, or research institute must be first submitted to the Long Range Academic Planning Committee before submission to Senate".

Reason:

At present, there is no single body in the University making a thorough examination of new programs and their university-wide implications on academic policy. Since Senate is ultimately responsible for academic development, it should charge one of its committees with the responsibility of making a comprehensive examination of the new program proposals.

By having the Committee examine the proposed programs, Senate will be better able to engage in meaningful debates and also (hopefully) be able to arrive at more informed decisions.

Implications:

a) No new programs can be mounted without the approval of the Committee.

b) The proposal submitted by the Committee to Senate should be fully documented to include estimates of costs, faculty, space, library requirements, and the implications of the program on the University's academic policy.

Operation of the Committee:

a) If the motion is adopted, Senate may decide to consider a re-composition of the Committee in order to make the Committee more responsible to Senate and to ensure a minimum amount of duplication of membership in the Committee with the faculty committees responsible for examining new program proposals.

b) If the motion is adopted, Senate should consider ways to facilitate the smooth functioning of the Committee. For instance, Senate members may wish semesterly-reports from the Committee to keep members abreast of new programs being considered by the Committee and the various faculties.

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