Annual Report of the Academic Senate
Curriculum and Instruction Committee for the
2010-2011 Academic Year

The Policy Committee requested that we review several issues and reports this past year.

The first issue the Curriculum & Instruction Committee (CIC) was asked to address by Policy Committee was related to a publishing incident regarding a student and commercial publication of a thesis containing data from a research project involving many parties. There were ethical issues surrounding the publication that needed to be addressed. The Committee ultimately recommended that the Graduate School lead in the development of a recommended compact or agreement terms that could serve to clarify the rights and responsibilities of faculty, research assistants and students. This resulted in a Wayne State University Guideline for Creating Faculty-Student Compacts (Draft of 2/15/11), which was discussed at the March and April meetings of the CIC. At the April meeting, a motion that the Guideline be supported was approved by the CIC and submitted to Policy Committee.

In January, the Policy Committee asked the CIC to address curriculum issues and provide feedback to the Computer Science Department’s proposal to move to the College of Engineering. The Committee Chair, Karen Feathers, attended multi-committee meetings as the CIC representative. The Committee submitted its report as requested to the Faculty Affairs Committee detailing several curriculum related issues, which were incorporated into the final report compiled and submitted to the Policy Committee by Dr. Sengstock on behalf of the CIC, Faculty Affairs, Research and Student Affairs Committees.

The Committee was asked by the Policy Committee to have individuals on the Committee review, comment and vote on the Parking Report Parking Operations: 5-Year Business Plan. The Committee member’s votes and comments were submitted in February.

In March, the Policy Committee asked that the CIC provide feedback on the Retention Implementation Task Force Final Report. Committee members were generally in support of the Retention Report, but felt that there were areas not discussed that should be part of the retention plan implementation. The CIC subsequently submitted a Report on the Retention Plan to the Policy Committee, which supported the recommendations of the Final Report, along with additional recommendations from the CIC regarding implementation of those recommendations.

At its April Meeting, the Committee hosted Guests Laura Woodward, Director of Testing & Assessment, Kristi Verbeke, Assistant Director, Office for Teaching and Learning, Hamid Siddiqui, Testing & Assessment Research Assistant, and Timothy Spannaus, Program Coordinator, Instructional Technology to discuss the Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET). Dr. Woodward presented various statistical analyses regarding return rates, impact of student interest on scores, etc. She also presented information on an outside vendor called Campus Labs, which provides student evaluation management services such as data gathering, report generation, tracking, etc. It is a service that would allow for real-time reporting of SET data. Given concerns expressed last year by the CIC regarding the SET, especially related to its evaluation of online teaching, the
SET process, SET question items, and report of SET scores and use for faculty evaluation, the CIC committee recommended that, before we consider retaining or purchasing outside services for SET management, the aforementioned issues in addition to those recommendations made in the ASSET report of 1995, be thoroughly examined. The CIC sent a memo Policy Committee requesting a 2N committee be formed to investigate and make recommendations on the composition, collection, dissemination and use of the SET.

Submitted By:

Veronica Bielat, Interim Chair
Curriculum & Instruction Committee

On behalf of the Curriculum & Instruction Committee
Tyrone Austin
Barbara Bosch
Kingsley Browne
Karen Feathers
Andre Furtado
Ewa Golebiowska
Renee Hoogland
Jerry Ku
Jim Moseley
Aaron Retish (AAUP-AFT Liaison)
Al Saperstein
Howard Shapiro (Administration Liaison)
Anca Vlasopolos (Policy Committee Liaison)
Earnestine Young

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