

Received

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COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

BERKELEY DIVISION of the ACADEMIC SENATE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

In fulfilling its charge as established in the By-Laws of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate, the Committee on Student Affairs (STA) carried out the following activities.

Note: items are listed chronologically in each section.

I. Finished Business

- Review of Proposed 140 Days of Instruction calendar. The committee was generally opposed to the new calendar. The committee suggested shortening both semesters and adding time for final exams. The committee also suggested a trimester calendar that integrates summer session into the regular school year. Some concerns were given, though, to the regularization of summer sessions and its impact on faculty workload, compensation and welfare.

Comments forwarded to Senate Chair Dowall (10/1/01)

- Review of DE-Cal program. The committee researched DE-Cal with special respect to its effectiveness as a student service. The committee held focus group discussions and met with DE-Cal administrators. The committee endorsed the appointment of a faculty member as a liaison to the De-cal office, along with several suggestions for ways in which the De-cal office could provide improved services to student course initiators. The STA report was forwarded to the Special Studies task force and included in its recommendations to reform the administration of 98 and 198 courses.

Comments forwarded to Senate Chair Dowall (11/14/01).

- Review of Resolution in defense of civil liberties and international students. The committee did not necessarily agree with some of the specific wording of the resolution but supported the general thrust of the resolution with the idea that problematic wording and clauses would be fixed.

Comments forwarded to Senate Chair Dowall (11/16/01).

- Review of Proctoring Tests for Students with Disabilities: a status report to the Academic Senate. The committee approved the report along with the proposed study-phase budget.

Comments forwarded to Senate Chair Dowall (2/4/02).

- Review of a letter from Professor Jonathan Berk regarding accommodation of students with disabilities. The committee agreed with Professor Berk's principle that all students should be evaluated on the mechanics of written work. But, the committee decided that this should only apply to take-home assignments where more time is allowed to fix mistakes. Further the committee argued that exams with time limits are not fair to any students because they measure speed of thought rather than command of the given material.

Comments forwarded to Senate Chair Dowall (2/4/02)

- Review of Divisional Council response to the proposed Resolution in Defense of Civil Liberties and International Students. The committee strongly disagreed with the statement. The committee felt that the statement was worse than saying nothing at all.

Comments forwarded to Senate Chair Dowall (2/4/02)

- Review of Student life Advising Services assessment report. The committee agreed with the report but offered small items of consideration including questions about the confidentiality of the proposed swipe-card system. The committee also thought the report raised into question the effectiveness of L&S academic advising.

Comments forwarded to Senate Chair Dowall (4/9/02)

II. Unfinished Business

- The committee had intended to meet with Dean of Students Karen Kenney regarding student actions in the wake of the situation in the Middle East, but due to scheduling conflicts this has been postponed until the new school year.