November 4, 2009

Henry Powell, CHAIR
ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Re: REVISED UCEP CHARGE

Dear Harry,

During UCEP’s meeting on November 2, 2009, the committee members discussed the proposed revisions to UCEP’s charge. While the members still agree that it is logical for UCEP to consider issues related to student welfare, members have concerns about the wording of the revisions suggested.

More specifically, it has been brought to our attention that there may be an unintended narrowing of the UCEP charge caused by the proposed wording. While the original charge included “…questions of educational policy”, encompassing any questions of educational policy, the proposed revision includes “…questions of undergraduate education and student welfare”, which narrows the scope to undergraduate education while expanding the charge to also include issues related to student welfare. The original intention of the proposed revision was not to narrow the scope, but to expand it to make it clear that there was a Senate committee available to consider issues of student well being beyond issues related to education.

There was immediate concern that systemwide and Divisional committee would be exerting effort reviewing the proposed document when UCEP sees a conceptual flaw in what has been proposed and would no longer support its being brought forward. While the feedback obtained would no doubt be useful, the proposed language may also cause a focus on the wrong issues. In the interest of minimizing unnecessary effort by various Senate constituencies, the committee agreed that the systemwide review of the proposed revisions should be stopped and that UCEP would prepare and submit a more carefully worded revised charge at a later date.

Sincerely,

Keith Williams, Chair
UCEP