To be received and placed on file:

1. The Committee has met twice during the academic year 2000-2001, and is scheduled to meet for a third time on May 21, 2001. It approved (by unanimous consent) two courses (Classics 40: Classical Mythology and English 12R: Introduction to Chicana/o Literature) as qualifier courses for 2001-2002.

2. The number of incoming freshmen held for Subject A continues to increase. A significant percentage of these are ESL students. The number of students in Basic Writing 3 is increasing by 50 per cent a year, from well under 100 five years ago to 450 in 2000-2001. The pass rate of students in Subject A courses is, however, better than it was in the previous year. The pass rate for Basic Writing 3 students in Fall 2000 was 18%, as against 8% in Fall 1999. This is probably the result of significant changes in instruction. The pass rates for English 4A, 4B, and 5 for Winter 2001 were 43%, 63%, and 78% respectively (as compared with 43%, 56%, and 68% in Winter 2000). Approximately 415 students are enrolled in the spring for their third quarter of Subject A instruction. About 100 students last year failed to clear the Subject A after their third quarter; most of these were ESL students. About a third of the students who failed to clear Subject A after three quarters were on academic probation and subject to dismissal.

3. The Committee has devoted a significant portion of its energies to a discussion of Subject A instruction and the Subject A exit examination. The Committee has discussed a proposal for a new Subject A program presented by the ASUCR. This proposal envisions a six-course sequence of composition courses, with Basic Writing 3, English 4, and English 5 acting as sequential prerequisites for English 1A. The proposal also recommends the abolition of the exit examination. The Committee is in the midst of discussions about exit examination failure rates and ESL instruction with the faculty involved in Subject A and ESL instruction. The Director of the Writing Courses committee of the English department, the Associate Director of Basic Writing, the Assistant Director of Testing and ESL, and UCR Extension faculty have participated in these discussions. It is expected that the Committee will be able to make specific recommendations regarding Subject A instruction and testing in the next academic year.

4. The Committee received a report on ESL programs in the UC system from Barbara Gable (English department), member of the UCOPE subcommittee on ESL instruction. The report notes that UCR enrolls the largest number of students with "E" designations on the Subject A examination. It needs to offer
much more by way of formal ESL instruction to such students. (Currently such students are enrolled in Basic Writing 3.) The report suggests (i) increasing the amount of ESL instruction to a minimum of three quarters; (ii) hiring qualified and experienced ESL composition instructors; (iii) stopping the clock while students are enrolled in the ESL program; and (iv) giving graduation credit for ESL courses.

5. The Committee recommends in the strongest possible terms the restoration of the Writing Resource Center (dis-established five years ago) for professional tutoring in writing and reading skills. UCR is the only campus in the UC system that does not offer such a service to its students.

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