To be received and placed on file:

1. The Committee met four times in Winter Quarter 2004 and expects to meet again before the end of the 2003-04 academic year. It discussed and approved the English Department's Proposal for the Revision of UCR's Pathways for Satisfying the Subject A Requirement (2/19/04). It renewed for one year only the policy of having the Associate Deans of the undergraduate colleges allow students who have not passed the Subject A Exit Exam by the end of their freshman year to continue for a 4th and, if necessary, a 5th quarter in order to meet the requirement. At UCOPE's request the committee initiated a review of Math placement and preparation at UCR. It discussed the presentation by William Jury, Executive Vice Chancellor, at the Enrollment Management Summit (3/5/04) about a plan for outsourcing the Subject A program and sent a memo about its concerns to the Committee on Educational Policy. Representatives from the Committee have regularly attended the Subject A Task Force and the Chair has attended meetings of the Advisory Committee and the Committee on Educational Policy as a guest to discuss matters related to the future of the Subject A program.

2. The number of incoming freshmen held for the Subject A requirement increased this year to an all-time high of 2050 -- around 55% of the entering freshman class. This is an increase of about 5% over recent years, during which the percentage had held constant at around 50%. A report by John Briggs, Director of Basic Writing, suggests that the problem may be related to a decline in the preparation of high school students. Only 26% of high school students intending to enroll at UCR had fulfilled the Subject A requirement through any of the available routes by the end of their senior year. UCR lagged considerably behind the two campuses with the next-lowest rates, UC Irvine and UC Davis (46%). It is to be hoped that as UCR becomes more selective, a larger number of incoming freshmen will meet the requirement by the end of high school. The situation needs to be monitored carefully over the next few years. The pass rate for students enrolled in Subject A courses during the 2003-04 year improved somewhat. The winter pass rate was up over the past year (from 54% to 57%), even though a higher proportion of students had placed into English 4. As of the end of winter quarter, approximately 80% of all students held for Subject A had fulfilled the requirement.

3. The Committee spent two full meetings discussing and making modifications to the English Department's Proposal for the Revision of UCR's Pathways for Satisfying the Subject A Requirement. It approved the following changes to the way the Subject A requirement is met on this campus:

- Replace the Subject A exit exam with a course-grade evaluation for meeting the Subject A requirement once students are enrolled at UCR, as allowed by SR 636.C.1. Students will now complete the requirement by earning a grade of "C" or better in one Subject A course -- English 4, 5, or a “Qualifier” course in another department. (Note: the requirement for a grade of “C” is mandated by systemwide regulations.)

- Simplifies Subject A course offerings, making the program structure clearer and helping students complete the requirement in a timely fashion. The approximately 90% of students held for Subject A who place in English 4, 5, or a “Qualifier” course in another department. When they pass it with a “C” or better, they will have completed the requirement. The remaining 10%--students who are placed into our ESL track on the basis of their
performance on the May Subject A exam—will be able to complete the requirement with passing grades in two courses—a pre-Subject A ESL course (BW3) and a Subject A course (English 4). Students will be able to repeat Subject A courses for a new grade but not for additional units, as allowed under existing regulations governing repeatability. Students placed in English 4, 5, or a “Qualifier” course must complete the requirement by the end of their freshman year, and preferably earlier. Students placed in BW3 must complete the requirement within one year following completion of BW3 and continuation to English 4. (See below.)

- Awards baccalaureate credit to BW3 and the “D” sections, as is allowed by SR 761B. Thus, all Subject A courses will award unit credit.
- Grants a “stop-the-clock” provision to students placed in BW3, as do ESL programs at several other UC campuses.
- Incorporates the new Systemwide-approved names for the Subject A Examination and the Subject A Requirement into the UCR catalog descriptions of the Subject A courses and program. The Subject A Exam will henceforth be known as the University of California Analytical Writing Placement Exam and the Subject A Requirement will become the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement

4. At the Enrollment Management Summit of March 5, 2004, William Jury, Executive Vice Chancellor, gave a presentation about “Subject A Inefficiencies” and put forward a plan to outsource the Subject A program to UC Extension or the community colleges. After discussion, the Committee sent a memo to the Committee on Educational Policy expressing concerns about this plan.

5. The Committee also heard presentations from Larry Harper, Math Dept., and Roger Hayes, Learning Center, about Math placement procedures and Math preparation courses. A memo summarizing our current procedures was sent to the University Committee on Preparatory Education for its April 19th meeting. In 2003, 73% of incoming UCR students were placed in pre-calculus courses; only 27% started with Math 9A or above. CPE faculty in science and engineering would like to see UCR students enter with better math preparation and expressed the wish for a 4th year of high school math to become a requirement for UC admission. This suggestion was brought before the UC Academic Senate Committee on Preparatory Education, and received unanimous agreement in principle, although it was considered premature to vote on this issue without further research and consideration.

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