To be received and placed on file:

The Committee has met four times up to the present during the current academic year. At these meetings, as relevant, the Chair reported to the committee members about developments in the Implementation Committee for the Writing Program at UCR, and in UCOPE, the University Committee on Preparatory Education, of which she is a member. Professor J. Briggs, director of the Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) reported data on ELWR enrollments and pass rates, and on other issues arising in ELWR. The Committee had detailed discussions about preparatory mathematics at UCR with Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education A. Grosovsky and with Professor of Mathematics A. Stralka, as well as a briefer discussion with Michael Paul Wong, Director of the UCR Learning Center. Since ex-officio members of the Committee itself include all the Associate Deans of Undergraduate Student Affairs and the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, these discussions served both as consultations about new and pressing problems and as policy development discussions.

In particular, the Committee has acted on the following issues so far this year:

1. The Committee completed its report on UCR’s Preparatory Education Programs, as requested by the Advisory Committee in the Spring of 2005.

2. A by-law change to the UCR entrance American History requirement (Regulation R2.1.3) was discussed, and an amendment to remove language concerning possible satisfaction of this requirement through a currently non-existent examination was passed. The amended regulation was forwarded to the Senate for further approval.

3. The Committee reviewed, discussed and forwarded extensive comments on the Final Report of the Task Force on Student Success at UCR. Likewise, it sent forward comments to UCOPE on proposed changes to Senate Regulation 761 which are now before the Academic Council. These changes are partially proposed to clarify the Regulation, but they also include a proposal for a systemwide cap on enrollments in preparatory English courses at 20 students per section.

4. The Committee discussed a proposal to amend ex officio representation from the UCR Student Affairs on its membership, but since many changes are in progress concerning the development of the new UCR-wide Writing Program and the search for its founding Director, this matter was tabled pending a broader examination of the committee membership in the coming year.
5. The matter that has consumed the majority of the Committee’s efforts during the present academic year has been developments following the elimination of remedial mathematics courses (IMP and Math 3) offered at UCR beginning in the present academic year. This change has highlighted a considerable lack of preparation of many entering freshmen to take any of the three preparatory (pre-calculus) courses (Math 4, 5, and 8A) now offered. The Committee examined data provided by Vice Provost Grosovsky’s office early in Winter Quarter comparing the performance of freshmen on the UCR Mathematics Advisory Examination (MAE) and in the preparatory courses offered during Fall 2006. In dialog with the Committee, Vice Provost Grosovsky, the Associate Deans for Student Affairs, and representatives of the Mathematics Department worked intensively together to determine policies for the upcoming Summer Bridge Program and for the next academic year. These policies concern revised prerequisite cut-off scores for the various preparatory courses based on current performance data, slight amendments to these courses as indicated by student needs and performance, referral of students needing Intermediate Algebra (which is considered remedial work) to appropriate community college courses, and policies for the up-coming Summer Bridge Program at UCR. The Committee approved a proposal setting parameters in these matters for the coming academic year, during which student performance will again be revisited.

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