To be received and placed on file:

1. The Committee met once during academic year 1998-99 to approve the following courses as qualifier courses by unanimous consent: Religious Studies 10, Classics 40, European Culture 25, and World Culture 17A.

2. The Systemwide pass rate on the May, 1998 Diagnostic examination administered to 17,000 incoming UC freshman (those who paid their S.I.R.deposits) was 56.3%, an improvement of 8.6 points over 1997. The UCR pass rate on the 1998 exam was 38.5%, an improvement of 9.5 points over 1997. (The pass rate for UCR's incoming students continued to be the lowest in the system.) The figures were better for UCR's freshman class -- those students who actually enrolled. 52% of our new freshman had passed the requirement by the day fall classes began. Over one hundred of these students passed the requirement during summer school on the UCR campus. Others took a composition course elsewhere and passed the Subject A exit exam administered by UCR. Plans are moving forward to expand students' options for summer work.

3. UC faculty, working with the UC President's Office and ETS, are nearing completion of the pilot phase of the Diagnostic Writing Service: an online battery of practice Subject A exams for high-school students. If approved by the UC Academic Senate and made operational in the state's high schools, the system would encourage students and teachers to prepare for college-level writing with the help of feedback from UC graders who respond online to students' essays. (High schools without computers would be able to use the service by submitting hard copies of their essays. Comments from the graders would arrive by conventional mail.) If the Senate approves this project, it would expand our campus's Subject A outreach efforts and energize the teaching of academic writing in the high schools.

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