COMMITTEE ON PREPARATORY EDUCATION
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE RIVERSIDE DIVISION
May 24, 2005

To be received and placed on file:

1. The Committee met nine times in 2004-05 and expects to meet again before the end of the academic year. In the fall, the Committee reviewed several plans for outsourcing all or part of the Entry Level Writing program (formerly Subject A) as well as a plan in which students would have one chance to pass a UCR Entry Level Writing course in fall quarter but would be charged fees in winter and spring through a “workaround” arrangement with UC Extension if they had to repeat the course. The Committee also reviewed the "Report and Recommendations" of the Ad Hoc Committee on Long-term Policy for Freshman Composition (including Subject A) and submitted its response in January (posted online on the Academic Senate website at http://www.senate.ucr.edu/senate_site/index.php?action=committee&do=info&id=32&ye ar=2004). The Committee approved motions to clarify procedures for students who entered UCR under the 2003-04 pathways for completing the Subject A requirement and to provide new testing options for designated extra-quarter students. It approved the use of summer session Entry Level Writing courses at other UC campuses to satisfy UCR's Entry Level Writing requirement if the student receives a "C" or better and if the course includes a final exam or an exit exam. It approved English 2, a 1- workload unit course for Entry Level Writing students in the Summer Bridge program. During the year, the Committee met several times with Vice Provost Andrew Grosovsky and once with Joseph Childers, Vice Chair of the Academic Senate. One member of the Committee served on the Ad Hoc Committee on Long-term Policy for Freshman Composition (including Subject A). Matters under continuing discussion include: improving support for ESL students in the Entry Level Writing program; possible development of a free-standing Writing Program and Writing Center; assessing computer-assisted instruction in the Entry Level Writing Program's D-sections; and math preparation issues.

2. As reported by the Basic Writing Office, the number of incoming freshmen held for the Entry Level Writing requirement at the beginning of the'04-05 year totaled 1626, approximately 47% of an entering class of 3452. This percentage is an improvement over last year, when 55% were held for the requirement. Pass rates for Entry Level Writing students at the end of Fall quarter '04 were substantially higher than last year. According to information provided by the Basic Writing office, 80% of students placed in English 4 satisfied the requirement at the end of Fall '04, compared to 43% of students placed in English 4A in Fall '03. 84% students placed in English 5 satisfied the requirement at the end of Fall '04, compared to 55% in Fall '03. These improvements are undoubtedly related to the new course-based pathway for satisfying the Entry Level Writing Requirement, instituted for the first time in '04-05. Student performance in post-Entry Level Writing courses, such as English 1A-1B-1C, will need to be monitored in order to determine whether the new course-based system is effective in maintaining the Entry Level standard. Pass rates for Entry Level Writing at the end of Winter '05 (mainly for repeating students) in English 4 were 50.6% this year (in comparison with 51% in '04) and 54% in English 5 (in comparison with 64% last year). Current spring enrollment in
Entry Level courses (again mainly for repeating students) is approximately half of what it was last year.

3. The Committee also received statistics from the Learning Center about 2004-05 math placement: 2455 out of 3452 incoming freshmen (or 71.1%) tested into remedial or preparatory pre-calculus courses (IMP, Math 3, and Math 5). This is a mild improvement over last year's 73%. Of special concern to the Committee, however, is the fact that 1338 of pre-calculus students are also held for the Entry Level Writing requirement. In other words, 38.76% of UCR's incoming freshmen were held for both Entry Level Writing and pre-calculus requirements in 2004-05.

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