

Strategic Initiatives Ad Hoc Committee

Margaret Garner, Chair

Report to the Faculty Senate

February 20, 2001

The members of the Ad Hoc Committee met on Feb. 16th for their first meeting. Members had been provided copies of related correspondence in addition to the full document, Strategic Initiatives Planning Document of the UA System for review prior to the meeting. An introduction to the process was provided by Drs. Ron Rogers, Nancy Barrett, and John Dolly. In addition, committee members who have had experience with joint or shared programs between campuses provided some insight to the pertinent issues for discussion. The committee members are now reviewing the documents and correspondence again to determine if all the issues are identified and draft their comments for discussion. We have also requested that the Graduate Council and the UG Programs and Studies Standing Committee review the document and related correspondence and provide input for us. Because some of the initiatives may have relevance to a number of efforts of the Quality Council, I have asked them to provide us comments.

Several individual faculty members have agreed to review the materials independently and send us comments. I will send all the related correspondence to anyone who wishes to do this parallel to our committee's work.. Our committee is discussing further strategies for engaging the faculty. It is very likely that once we have a good handle on the committee's consensus, we will have some open forums for faculty to attend to hear discussion and gain input.

We have suggested to the System office that a full semester should be devoted to this effort and that the reports from the 3 campuses should then be returned to the original task forces (made up of representatives from each) for review. There is no emergency here; the most important consideration now is that changes in policies that affect academic programs and faculty deserve and require adequate time for deliberation among the faculty.