

DATE: April 18, 2002

TO: Bill Castellano, and Michael Hooks, Co-Chairs
College Planning Council

FROM: Sanford C. Shugart

RE: Response to College Committee Review Recommendations

Thank you for the very thorough and thoughtful report from your committee. I write now to respond to your recommendations.

Standing Committees - - With the new Governance Structure and the involvement of faculty and staff in the formal decision making processes of the college, I agree that the concept of “standing committees” may no longer be useful to us. Certainly, the college should not have “committees” that don’t meet regularly and contribute measurably to the learning mission we share. The Executive Council will maintain an ongoing list of all committees operating in the college, indicating for each the charge, membership, expected duration, and accountability of the committee. All will be asked to adopt the “Principles Informing the Work of Valencia Committees.” Accountability for these principles will rest with the committee chair and the chair of the Council or executive officer that commissioned their work and approved their charge. An annual report of committee activity will be published by the Executive Council to the entire college.

Mediating Differences. I accept your proposal to “move toward implementation of an ombudsman model of dispute resolution by the beginning of the 2003-2004 academic year.” Members of existing grievance and appeal committees will be appointed for the 2002-2003 year only before May 1, 2002. A work team co-chaired by Dan Dutkofski and Bill Mallowney will also be named by that date.

Continuing Committees. The College Curriculum Committee, the College Honors Advisory Committee, and the Health Related Programs Admissions Committee will all continue to function under the responsibility of the College Learning Council. Regular methods for assuring their accountability and effective communication on at least an annual basis with the entire college will be implemented.

EAO to Diversity. The EAO Committee’s charge will be broadened to include general oversight and support to all of the college’s diversity initiatives and the committee will be renamed the College Diversity Committee. I will direct the committee to submit a new charge, consistent with Goal Six of our Strategic Learning Plan no later than September 1, 2002. In addition, I will ask them to review their membership to assure that they embody the diversity of background, role, perspective,

and mission in the college they seek to develop. All other “diversity committees,” and there have been several over the past few years, will cease to exist. The new College Diversity Committee will have to take care to give broad attention to all of the strategies and outcomes in Goal Six, not just those relating to employment. The committee will report to the College Planning Council, but shall have unimpeded access through their co-chairs to advise the president.

Learning Resources Committee. I accept your recommendation to constitute the committee in accordance with their recommendation of last June with the adjustment to student membership. This committee shall be responsible to the College Learning Council.

College Staff and Program Development Committee. I share your concern that the committee and the method of allocation of resources for staff and program development require serious review. I sense that there is history here to which I am not privy. Further, I think it is essential that we deploy these resources very strategically to improve learning and I suspect that our methods of allocation now are more a matter of habit than choice. I am concerned, however, with the amount of process you recommend for accomplishing the above. Therefore, I will engage an interim step before deciding whether to convene an elaborate “inter-council committee.” First, I will ask a small working group to draft a report summarizing the current practices, policies, procedures, and uses of all our professional development resources, including SPD funds. Second, I will convene an ad hoc group of faculty and staff for discussion of this single item, equipped with the information in advance, and ask the question, “Is there a more learning-centered approach to deploying these resources?” Additional steps will be guided by what we learn in this discussion.

Finally, I think it is well to echo your words in the report. There will continue to be many working groups, task forces, work teams, ad hoc groups, etc. in the college. The question “When is a group and ‘official’ college committee requires an answer, for only these are strictly accountable to the principles and procedures we are describing here. The answer is that an official college committee is one that is created and designated so by one of the Governing Councils of the college or by one of the Executive Officers of the college. In every case, the Executive Council will need to be notified when one is brought into existence so they can track the work.

C Presidents Council
Faculty Association Board
Committee Chairs
Council Chairs

