UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

SUMMARY OF AGENDA
March 7, 1983

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: February 7, 1983

III. REMARKS BY PRESIDENT TRABANT and/or PROVOST CAMPBELL

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS: SENATE PRESIDENT HOFFECKER

V. OLD BUSINESS
   A. Resolution regarding academic standards for Continuing Education
      Students (Attachment 2)
   B. Recommendation for approval of the reorganization and departmentalization
      of the College of Nursing

VI. NEW BUSINESS
   A. Recommendation of a policy regarding confidentiality of library
      records
   B. Recommendation for provisional approval of a Ph.D. program and degree
      in Family Studies (Attachment 3)
   *C. Recommendation to establish a standing Committee on Academic
      Appeals (Attachment 4)
   D. Recommendation for revision of the Student Grievance Procedure
   E. Recommended guidelines for determining eligibility for the
      Degree with Distinction
   F. Introduction of new business

*Bylaw change; requires a 2/3 vote of those senators present and voting
February 28, 1983

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Faculty Members

FROM: James D. Culley, Vice President
University Faculty Senate

SUBJECT: Regular Faculty Senate Meeting, March 7, 1983

In accordance with Section IV, paragraph 6 of the Constitution, the regular meeting of the University Faculty Senate will be held on Monday, March 7, 1983 at 4:00 p.m. in room 110 Memorial Hall.

AGENDA

I. Adoption of the Agenda.

II. Approval of the Minutes of the regular Senate meeting of February 7, 1983.

III. Remarks by President Trabant and/or Provost Campbell.

IV. Announcements - Senate President Hoffecker

V. Old Business

A. Resolution from the Committee on Adjunct Academic Affairs (M. Miller, chair) regarding academic standards for Continuing Education students. (For background information see Attachment 2.)

BE IT RESOLVED, that for those Continuing Education students who previously were matriculated and dropped for academic reasons:

1. Permission to enroll for more than 7 credit hours will be granted by the Division of Continuing Education only upon written approval of the dean of the college to which the student is seeking readmission;

2. Permission to drop a course after the standard deadline will be granted by the Division of Continuing Education only with the written approval of the instructor and the dean of the college in which the course is offered.
B. Recommendation from the Coordinating Committee on Education (J. Pikulski, chair) for approval of the establishment of departments in the College of Nursing. (The proposal has been published as Attachment 5 of the Agendas for the December 6, 1982 and February 7, 1983 Senate meetings; additional copies are available from the Senate office.)

RESOLVED, that the University Faculty Senate approves and recommends to the Board of Trustees that a Department of Nursing Science and a Department of Advanced Nursing Science be established in the College of Nursing, effective July 1, 1983.

VI. New Business

A. Recommendation from the Library Committee (R. Taggart, chair) regarding confidentiality of library records.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate recommends that the Director of University libraries:

1. Formally adopt a policy which specifically recognizes library circulation records and other records identifying the names of library users to be confidential in nature.

2. Advise all librarians and library employees that such records shall not be made available to any agency of state, federal, or local government except pursuant to such process, order, or subpoena as may be authorized under the authority of, and pursuant to, federal, state or local law relating to civil, criminal, or administrative discovery procedures or legislative investigatory power.

3. Resist the issuance or enforcement of any such process, order, or subpoena until such time as a proper showing of good cause has been made in a court of competent jurisdiction.*

*Point 3, above, means that upon receipt of such process, order or subpoena, the Director of Libraries will consult with legal counsel to determine if such process, order, or subpoena is in proper form and if there is a showing of good cause for its issuance; if the process, order, or subpoena is not in proper form or if good cause has not been shown, they will insist that such defects be cured.

B. Recommendation from the Coordinating Committee on Education (J. Pikulski, chair) for approval of a Ph.D. program and degree in Family Studies. (A summary of the program is given in Attachment 3; the complete proposal is on reserve in the Morris Library, RES 000-65842, and a copy is available in the Senate Office, 301 Hullihen Hall.)
RESOLVED, that provisional approval for a Ph.D. program and degree in Family Studies be granted for a four-year period beginning September, 1983. Review of the program should take place in the spring of 1987.

C. Recommendation from the Committee on Faculty Welfare and Privileges (H. Hutchinson, chair) to establish a standing Committee on Academic Appeals. (Background information for this and for Item D, below, is presented in Attachment 4.)

RESOLVED, that the Bylaws and Regulations of the University Faculty Senate, III: Standing Committee System of the Faculty and its Senate, be amended by the addition (on p. I-14 of the present Faculty Handbook) of the following:

ACADEMIC APPEALS, COMMITTEE ON

This Committee shall have the sole purpose of serving at Step 4 of the Student Grievance Procedure in reviewing cases appealed to it, determining whether or not a hearing is appropriate, conducting such hearings, and rendering a decision.

The Committee shall consist of two graduate students and two undergraduate students chosen for one-year terms, and five members of the voting faculty appointed for two-year terms. Initial faculty terms on the Committee shall be staggered so that at least two faculty members carry over each year. The Chairperson of the Committee shall be elected from the continuing members by the Committee at its first meeting each academic year.

D. Recommendation from the Committee on Faculty Welfare and Privileges (H. Hutchinson, chair) for revision of the Student Grievance Procedure.

RESOLVED, that the Student Grievance Procedure shall read as follows:

[proposed]

STUDENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

[no change]

Definition of a Student Complaint

Student complaints fall into two categories, those involving grades and those involving other matters.

[present]

STUDENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Definition of a Student Complaint
1. Grade complaints: a claim that an inappropriate grade has been assigned because of a faculty member's bias or because of a faculty member's failure to follow announced standards for assigning grades, but not because of a faculty member's alleged erroneous academic judgment (i.e., not a claim that course standards are too high, reading is too heavy, the grade curve is too low, etc.).

2. Other complaints: a claim of abuse, ill-treatment, or exploitation involving the irresponsible or unjust misuse of the instructor's position of authority, power, and trust (e.g., pointed sexist or racist slurs, or sexual or pecuniary blackmail).

Procedure

Step 1. A student with a complaint against a faculty member must first try to reach agreement with the faculty member concerned. Upon being notified of a complaint by the student, the faculty member must meet with the student to discuss the complaint within ten working days.

Step 2. If the issue is not resolved at Step 1, the student may appeal, in writing, to the faculty member's chairperson, who will attempt to mediate the complaint. Such an appeal must be made within three working days of the meeting between the student and the faculty member unless other arrangements are made which are mutually agreeable to all involved or extreme circumstances preclude adherence to such time intervals.

Step 3. A student or faculty member who is not satisfied with the decision reached in Step 2 may appeal to the chairperson of the department/college "Academic Judgment and Student Complaints Committee." Each academic department/college shall designate such a committee of at least five (5) members, some or two of whom may be students, by creating a new standing committee, by appointing an ad hoc committee for each complaint, or by adding the function of hearing student complaints to an existing committee.

1. Grade complaints: a claim that a grade is unfair because of a faculty member's bias or because of a faculty member's failure to follow announced standards for assigning grades, but not because of a faculty member's erroneous academic judgment (i.e., not a claim that course standards are too high, reading is too heavy, the grade curve is too low, etc.).

2. Other complaints:

   [no change]

Procedure

Step 1. A student with a complaint against a faculty member must first try to reach agreement with the faculty member concerned.

Step 2. A student whose complaint is not resolved in Step 1 may then appeal to the faculty member's chairperson, who will attempt to mediate the complaint.

The following will apply for undergraduate students:

Step 3A. A student or faculty member who is not satisfied with the decision reached in Step 2 may appeal through the chairperson to the department's "Academic Judgment and Student Complaints Committee." Each academic department/unit shall designate such a committee of at least five (5) members, one or two of whom may be students, by creating a new standing committee, by appointing an ad hoc committee for each complaint, or by adding the function of hearing student complaints to an existing committee (e.g., an undergraduate studies committee).
Step 4. A student or faculty member who is not satisfied with the fairness or thoroughness of the procedures used in Step 3 may appeal to the Academic Appeals Committee of the University Faculty Senate. This committee, on reviewing the case, may uphold the decision of the departmental/college committee without holding an additional hearing or it may decide the appeal should be heard.

For purposes of a hearing the Chairperson of the Academic Appeals Committee shall appoint an ad hoc hearing panel from among the current members of the Committee consisting of three faculty members and two students. If the grievant is a graduate student the two student panel members should be graduate students and, if the grievant is an undergraduate student, the student panel members should be undergraduates.

Step 4A. An undergraduate student or faculty member who is not satisfied with the fairness or thoroughness of the procedures used in Step 3A may appeal to the Faculty Welfare and Privileges Committee of the University Faculty Senate. This Committee, on reviewing the case, may uphold the decision of the departmental committee without a hearing, or it may decide the appeal should be heard. For purposes of a hearing, the Chairperson of the Committee shall appoint an ad hoc committee consisting of three faculty members and two undergraduate students. The decision of the Faculty Welfare and Privileges Committee or its ad hoc hearing committee shall be final.

The following will apply for graduate students

Step 3B. A graduate student or faculty member who is not satisfied with the decision reached in Step 2 may appeal through the chairperson to the department or college's graduate committee. If such a committee does not exist, the department or college may designate such a committee of at least three members, one of whom may be a graduate student.

Step 4B. A graduate student or faculty member who is not satisfied with the decision reached in Step 3B may appeal to the Committee on Graduate Studies of the Faculty Senate. The Chairperson of this Committee shall appoint three committee members who are faculty and two committee members who are graduate students to hear the case. The decision of this ad hoc committee shall be final.

Step 5. The student and/or the faculty member may be assisted by an advisor of his or her choice. The student, faculty member, and the Committee hearing the complaint may call witnesses and have access to all relevant materials. All involved parties must be provided with a list of witnesses at least three days before the hearing. The decision of the panel hearing the case shall be final.
Remedial Action

1. In the case of a grade complaint, the Records Office may be authorized to change the student's grade if mutual agreement to do so is reached in Step 1 or 2. In Step 3, if the department/college committee determines that a procedural error has been made by the faculty member, it may request the faculty member to re-evaluate the student's performance using appropriate procedures. In Step 4, if the panel hearing the complaint determines that a faculty member's actions or procedural violations may have affected the student's grade, it should, where appropriate, request other person(s) competent to judge the student's work to re-evaluate his or her achievements to determine whether and to what extent a grade change is appropriate. The person(s) asked to perform this re-evaluation may be from within or outside the University. If a change of grade is determined to be appropriate, the ad hoc panel hearing the case will authorize the Records Office to make the grade change.

On completion of any hearing held in accordance with the procedures in Step 4, the hearing panel will forward a copy of its findings to the parties involved and to an appropriate administrative officer or faculty body.

2. In the case of other complaints, the decision at any step of the procedure may be, if feasible, a remedy for the aggrieved party or parties. In addition to reporting its findings to the parties involved, the panel hearing appeals to Step 4 will forward a copy of its findings to an appropriate administrative officer or faculty body.

ten (10) working days. Any appeal of the decision made as a result of this meeting must be made to the department chairperson within three (3) working days of the procedure unless (1) other arrangements are made which are mutually agreed upon by all those involved or (2) extreme circumstances preclude adherence to such time intervals. In addition, all appeals must be made in writing, and all decisions must be rendered in writing to all parties to the dispute.

Remedial Action Where a Student Complaint is Upheld

1. In the case of a grade complaint, the decision at any step of the procedure may authorize the Records Office to change a grade, unless the decision has been appealed.

2. In the case of other complaints, the decision at any step of the procedure may be, if feasible, a remedy for the aggrieved party or parties. In addition to reporting its findings to the parties involved, the Committee on Faculty Welfare and Privileges, or the Graduate Studies Committee in the case of a graduate student, may forward a copy of its findings to an appropriate administrative officer or faculty body.
E. Recommendation from the Committee on Student and Faculty Honors (J. Kent, chair) for Faculty Senate approval of policies regarding eligibility for the Degree with Distinction.

RESOLVED, that the following guidelines shall apply in determining the eligibility of students to receive the degree with Distinction:

1. Computation of Grade Point Average (GPA) for academic major:
   a. Students with a single major: GPA will be computed on courses of program requirements that satisfy the major.
   b. Students with a double major: GPA will be computed on the major in which the thesis is to be written. Students with a double major have the option of integrating their two majors into a single thesis. The GPA in each major must be 3.5. The thesis committee must include representatives from both majors.
   c. Students seeking the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies: GPA will be computed using the upper-division level courses (prefix of 300 or 400) that are specified in the student's contract on file in the Dean's Office, College of Arts and Science.

2. Students enrolled for Senior Thesis leading to the Degree with Distinction and also enrolled for Honors Senior Thesis leading to the Degree with Honors must complete two distinct theses, each of which must stand on its own merit. The theses may be related but must not in any essential way duplicate one another. Evidence confirming that two distinct theses have been prepared to satisfy the requirements of each degree program must be provided by the student.

3. The thesis for the Degree with Distinction must include a title page which provides for the following required signatures:
   a. Student's departmental thesis advisor;
   b. Faculty member from the student's thesis committee;
   c. Committee member, Faculty Senate Committee on Student and Faculty Honors;
   d. Chairperson, Faculty Senate Committee on Student and Faculty Honors.

F. Such items as may come before the Senate. (No motion introduced at this time may be acted upon until the next meeting of the Senate.)

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Attachments: 1. Committee Activities
             2. Continuing Education: Background Information
             3. Ph.D. in Family Studies: Proposal Summary
             4. Student Grievance Procedure: Background Information
MONTHLY COMMITTEE ACTIVITY REPORT

ACADEMIC COMPLAINTS, COMMITTEE ON (Gordon J. DiRenzo)

Revising procedures for complaints

ACADEMIC FREEDOM, COMMITTEE ON (Kenneth C. Haas)

Reviewing Disruptive Behavior Policy

ADJUNCT ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, COMMITTEE ON (Mark J. Miller)

1. Reconsidering rules governing late CEND drops
2. Reviewing academic guidelines for field experiences
3. Reviewing guidelines for computer-based instruction

COMMITTEES, COMMITTEE ON (Thomas R. Scott)

1. Modifying charge for Committee on Undergraduate Records and Certification
2. Modifying charge for Committee on Graduate Studies
3. Filling vacant slots on committees

EDUCATION, COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON (John J. Pikulski)

1. Reviewing proposal for Submatriculation in French
2. Reviewing programs allowing course credits to be applied to more than one degree

EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION AND PLANNING, COMMITTEE ON (Mary Jo Kallal)

Reviewing final exam schedule

FACULTY WELFARE AND PRIVILEGES, COMMITTEE ON (Harry D. Hutchinson)

Reviewing student grievance procedures

FINE ARTS AND EXHIBITIONS SUBCOMMITTEE (Jeanne S. Rymer)

1. Reviewing Committee proposal forms and guidelines for exhibitions
2. Reviewing funding/scheduling of exhibits for January-July 1983
3. Reviewing necessary renovations to Student Center Gallery

GRADUATE STUDIES, COMMITTEE ON (Marvin B. Sussman)

1. Reviewing student grievance procedures
2. Reviewing new courses and revisions
3. Reviewing confidentiality status of graduate program reviews
4. Reviewing graduate programs in secondary education
5. Reviewing procedures for awarding of dissertation prizes
6. Reviewing graduate program in Plant Science
7. Reviewing Master's program in the Department of Individual and Family Studies
8. Reviewing revision in M.Ed. in College Counselling/Student Personnel Administration
INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES, COMMITTEE ON (Paul H. Sammelwitz)

1. Considering the need for development of a centralized directory of campus print and non-print instructional resources
2. Coordinating utilization of computer graphic equipment at the Computing Center to meet need for pre-print graphics by faculty

RESEARCH, COMMITTEE ON (David Barlow)

Evaluating UDRF General Grant Proposals

STUDENT AND FACULTY HONORS, COMMITTEE ON (James W. Kent)

1. Preparing for Honors Day
2. Preparing for selection of recipients of Excellence in Teaching Awards
3. Overseeing degree with distinction theses

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS AND STANDING, COMMITTEE ON (R. Dean Shippy)

Subcommittee is reviewing Credit by Examination and Advanced Placement

VISITING SCHOLARS AND SPEAKERS SUBCOMMITTEE (A. Julian Valbuena)

Reviewing requests for funding of programs for 1983 Spring semester
DIVISION OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

Report
Prepared by the
University Faculty Senate
Committee on Adjunct Academic Affairs

A major function of the Division of Continuing Education is to extend credit course opportunities to nonmatriculated (CEND) students. Nearly 3000 CEND students enroll each semester. Approximately 60 percent are employed full time, many are parents, and nearly all have extensive responsibilities in addition to their studies. Most are motivated by career advancement and personal development goals. One-third of these students already have earned a baccalaureate degree—many from the University of Delaware. Almost 90 percent register for only one or two courses per semester.

In contrast to the majority of adult part-time learners at Delaware, there is a small but visible group of low-achieving students who register for credit courses through Continuing Education after having been dropped from the University for academic deficiency. Typically, about 400 students in dropped status register for credit courses during a regular semester. Of these, 150 take three or more courses. This latter group of "dropped" students who register for course overloads is of special concern to the University.

The Division of Continuing Education presently requires that students in dropped status obtain the appropriate dean’s approval if they wish to register for more than seven credits. An exception to this policy occurs only if the exception is requested by the dean. This policy, which includes cancellation of unauthorized registrations by the Division of Continuing Education, generally has worked well.

It is the present policy also that CEND students who attempt to drop courses after the standard deadline must have the approval of both the course instructor and the Division of Continuing Education. Approximately 40 to 50 students typically withdraw late. An examination of the records of nonmatriculated registrants for 83A revealed that 46 CEND students dropped courses after the standard deadline. Most of these students were alumni, either previously matriculated and in good academic standing, or students who had never been matriculated and therefore had no previous record. Eleven of the students were in dropped status. The average age of the 46 students was 27 years. Most encountered employment conflicts (56%) or medical problems (20%) requiring a reduction in course load, which in most cases meant withdrawal from all courses.

The resolution on the Agenda is intended to strengthen existing University policy with respect to students in dropped status, and to ensure overall maintenance of academic standards. It is expected that students in dropped status will maintain close contact with the dean of the college offering their intended degree program and with the Division of Continuing Education.

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SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSAL FOR THE
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN FAMILY STUDIES

From the Department of Individual and Family Studies,
College of Human Resources
To the University Faculty Senate

1. Name of the Proposed Degree

Doctor of Philosophy in Family Studies (Ph.D.)

2. Need for the Program

In recent decades, educational institutions have come to accept the family as a viable and necessary unit of study and recognize that basic research is essential in order to meet the ever-increasing demands placed by society on the family. Changes within the structure of the family itself have created new strengths and problem areas which call for research efforts directed at discovering possible solutions and proposed viable adaptations.

Study of the family is congruent with the national/federal focus on the essential role of families in providing for and nurturing their members at all stages of the life cycle. These are the kinds of issues the doctoral program in Family Studies will address.

Delaware is in an excellent position to offer a doctoral program, since there are no other such programs in Family Studies within 100 miles of the University and few in the Eastern United States. In addition, the demand for study in this area is high. To date, forty-eight individuals have expressed an interest in enrolling in the proposed program and this occurred without any recruitment efforts.

3. Proposed Program and Requirements

The proposed Ph.D. program is concerned with the study of problems, issues and the development of families over the life span. The objective is to prepare creative researchers, scholars and leaders for positions in educational institutions, human service agencies, and other family related and personal growth occupations. A research emphasis will be an integral component of all of the options within this program.

The degree program requires a minimum of 42 graduate credit hours beyond the Master's degree or 72 credit hours beyond the Baccalaureate. Each student is required to take four basic three-credit courses in family studies plus advanced statistics (see following diagram). A minimum of nine credit hours are required in a Professional Area, family development or family systems; nine credits in the Application Focus and nine credits of dissertation research. The Community Settings focus has a required internship. Each student must fulfill the University residence requirement. A demonstration of proficiency or relevant experience is required in research methodology and design, statistical application, computer techniques and oral and written communication.
To be admitted to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree, the student must pass a qualifying examination at the end of the second year and have his/her dissertation proposal approved by his/her committee. The written and oral exam will cover both basic coursework and specialty areas. A final oral defense of the dissertation is required.

4. Admission and Enrollment

Applicants must hold a bachelor's or master's degree from an accredited institution in a related area of study and will be accepted on a competitive basis. Evaluation of applicants will be based on undergraduate and graduate grades, Graduate Record Examination scores, letters of reference and appropriate work related and professional contributions.

It is the intent to enroll six students during the first year of the program with a maximum of 15-20 students in five years. With 48 individuals interested in the program, enrollment will not be a problem.

5. Costs

The Department of Individual and Family Studies can initiate a quality Ph.D. program at minimal cost to the University. Current faculty, adjunct and joint faculty will staff the program. No new positions are requested. A listing of faculty members and their Vitas can be found in the complete proposal available at Morris Library and the Senate Office.

Five student assistantships are currently available to the Department. Additional awards will be provided from existing Department resources. At least one Fellowship/Assistantship is expected from the University in year two of the program. A recent study of 25 potential candidates indicates that 15 would enroll even if no financial assistance is available.

No additional funds are requested for other expenses. Space is sufficient at the present time. Other sources will be explored and current funds reassigned to cover costs for recruitment. Library holdings are adequate to initiate the program.

6. Impact on the University

The Doctorate in Family Studies will not duplicate the efforts of other graduate programs at the University, because it will be the only doctoral program which focuses on the family as its unit of study. We see it as benefiting students in other departments because the multi-disciplinary nature of the program can be exciting and attractive to those interested in family issues. Other departments offer excellent courses which complement this program, thus avoiding duplication of effort, yet expanding graduate opportunities for a variety of students.

The benefits of the program were clearly stated in the recommendation by the External Review Team:

"The Team supports the vigorous pursuit of the doctoral program. If the program is established, there will be a number of very positive effects. Among these will be an attraction for more undergraduate and graduate students, an increased potential for research, more funding, additional publications, increased stimulation for existing faculty, and effective recruitment potential for new faculty. Rejection or postponement of the doctorate might be a significant factor in preventing the continuation and further development of creative and scholarly activity within the Department."
PROGRAM SUMMARY

FAMILY STUDIES PROGRAM-DECISION TREE

I. BASIC FAMILY STUDIES AND RESEARCH
   (15 credits)

   REQUIRED COURSES - ALL STUDENTS

   IFS 5xx - Seminar - Contemporary Issues in Family Studies
   taught by Settles

   IFS 830 - Theory and Research in Child and Family Life
   taught by Settles

   IFS 8xx - Life Course Transitions of Individuals and Families
   team taught or rotated - Sussman, Steinmetz, Kliman, Hardy, Settles

   EDF 861 - Statistics (or equivalent)

   currently being developed by Liprie & Settles

II. CHOICE OF TWO PROFESSIONAL FOCI
    (9-12 credits)

   A. Speciality in Family Studies
      (Family Development)
      EDF Human Development
      plus selected courses which deal with:
      1) transitions: birth, school, marriage, work, retirement
      2) disruptions and crises: exceptionality, illness, deviance, violence, unemployment, divorce, death
      3) adjustments: parenting, career change, financial planning, social issues, remarriage

   B. Comprehensive Fam Systems
      IFS 621 - Dynamics Family Development or equivalent plus coordinated group process and policy courses in -
      • Family Intervention
      • Human/Health Service Systems
      • Policy Analysis
      • Family Life Education

III. CHOICE OF THREE APPLICATION FOCI
     (5-12 credits)

     A. RESEARCH
        Statistics
        Theory
        Research Design
        Proposal Management
        Special Problems
        Research

     B. COMMUNITY SETTINGS
        Organizational Management
        Leadership
        Supervised Internship/Independent Study
        Program Planning and Development
        Personnel Development
        Community Organization
        Counseling
        Evaluation Research Design

     C. EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS
        (Higher Education)
        Administration
        Leadership
        Higher Education - History and Philosophy
        Curriculum Development
        Evaluation Research Methods
        Assessment and Measurement
        Supervised Field Work/Independent Study

II. REQUIRED ALL STUDENTS - DISSERTATION RESEARCH

   IFS 999 - Doctoral Dissertation (1-12)
   IFS 989 - Research

   (In addition, many students will also have master's thesis and research at 300 level)
STUDENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Proposal for Change
Prepared by the
University Faculty Senate
Committee on Faculty Welfare and Privileges

The recommendations, New Business Items C and D, represent the Committee on Faculty Welfare and Privileges' attempt to correct two major deficiencies it finds in the current student grievance procedures.

First, it would establish a new Academic Appeals Committee to hear final appeals of all student grievances. Under the current procedure the final appeal, in the case of a grievance filed by an undergraduate student, is to the Committee on Faculty Welfare and Privileges. The final appeal in the case of a grievance filed by a graduate student, on the other hand, is to the Committee on Graduate Studies.

It is our belief that the undergraduate-graduate distinction, with respect to student grievances, is artificial. All such grievances should be heard by one committee, whose members are chosen on the basis of their experience in dealing with such semi-judicial procedures and their personal reputations for even-handedness. In our view, the Committee on Faculty Welfare and Privileges is an inappropriate appeals committee for student grievances because its prime concern is with faculty welfare. The Committee on Graduate Studies is a committee whose members are chosen primarily for their abilities to contribute to curricular matters, rather than for their experience or expertise on judicial matters. Since no single Senate committee with the necessary qualifications currently exists, it seems appropriate to create one.

Second, by specifically recommending that the quality of the student's work be an important factor in determining whether, and to what extent, his or her grade shall be altered as a result of a grievance, the proposal attempts to close what this Committee feels is a serious loophole in the current procedures. As the procedure is currently written, a grievant's grade can be raised by the committee hearing the appeal whenever procedural violation or bias are shown, regardless of the quality of the grievant's academic performance in the course in question.

/b