Recommendation

Motion: The Faculty Senate recommends the establishment of an academic testing system to measure selected basic skills of students prior to graduation.

Background: The Academic Affairs Committee wrestled with this topic last year and on April 6, 1982, presented a motion to the Senate. During this meeting and again on April 29 considerable discussion evolved. Part of this discussion related to certain basic skills areas mentioned in the motion. Other questions related to the Academic Program Evaluation Project (AEP) that was being conducted through the Office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs. As the Committee had not had an opportunity to read the final report of the AEP project, many questions were asked to which the Committee could not respond. To provide additional study time, the Chairman of the Committee moved to "postpone indefinitely" further discussion and voting on the motion. However, under Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, this motion in reality, killed the motion on the floor.

This Committee has studied the AEP final report, had a meeting with Dr. Faye Robinson concerning the AEP activities and explored testing options. All information obtained indicates that academic testing of selected basic skills is no simple or cheap endeavor. We therefore submit the above motion to determine the desire of the Senate. If this motion is passed, we will continue our liaison with the Administration to determine the role the Senate can play in implementing an academic testing program.

Robert M. Schneider