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Faculty Senate Chronicle April 1, 1999

Heather M. Loughney
hl@uakron.edu

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Any comments concerning the contents in The University of Akron Chronicle may be directed to the Secretary, Dr. Gary Oller (+1910).
FacultySenate@UAkron.Edu

MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING OF APRIL 1, 1999

The regular meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order by Chair Barbara Heinzerling at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 1, 1999, in Room 201 of the Buckingham Center for Continuing Education.

Forty-two of the sixty-four members of the Faculty Senate were in attendance. Senators J.Buchanan, Deckler, Dubick, Hanlon, Kennedy, Konkel, Midha, Smith, and Smolen were absent with notice. Senators Batur, Bird, C.Buchanan, Dhinojwala, Foos, Gilpatric, Murray, Ofobike, Ozanich, Redle, Reed, Reep, and Wright were absent without notice.

SENATE ACTIONS

- * APPROVED THE LIST OF DEGREE CANDIDATES FOR SPRING COMMENCEMENT**
- * POSTPONED ACTION ON A RECOMMENDATION FROM APCC REGARDING MINORS AND BYPASSED CREDIT UNTIL THE MAY MEETING**
- * APPROVED THREE SPACE ALLOCATION RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CFPC**
- * APPROVED A MOTION REGARDING SENATE APPROVAL OF ANY CHANGES TO PART-TIME FACULTY DESIGNATIONS**

I. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA - The Chair asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Senator Peggy Richards so moved and this was seconded by Senator Judy Fitzgerald. The body then voted its approval.

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 4 - Secretary Gary H. Oller said that he had one correction at the bottom of page 1, the last line of section II in "Announcements" relating to the memorial for Miss Dorothy Hamlen. The sentence read, "Miss Hamlen was also the person responsible for bringing the valuable Henry Seymour Collection of First Editions...." "Seymour" should be changed to "C. Morris." Since there were no other corrections, Senator Bonnie Filer-Tubaugh moved approval of the minutes and this was seconded by Senator Richards. The Senate then approved the amended minutes.

III. CHAIR'S REMARKS - The Chair wanted to inform the body that earlier in the day she had had the pleasure of attending her first conversation with the Carnegie Teaching Academy, and she had been amazed at the number of new faces. When you have been on this campus for a long time, you think that you know many people, and then you are surprised when you sit down at a table and see not only familiar colleagues but new friends also. She had found it all very exciting, and the group had had a good

discussion. She hoped that others were experiencing the same pleasure. This was getting us all at least communicating.

IV. SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS - First, the Chair wanted to introduce and welcome Dr. Harvey Sterns as a new Senator from the College of Arts and Sciences. Senator Sterns was greeted with a round of applause. Next, if members were suffering from spring fever, Senator Scott Johnston had just told her that the Paragon Brass was playing tonight in Guzzetta Hall. For all dog lovers, real dogs were going to be featured in the second half of the concert. So if you wanted something different for your evening, you might want to go hear dogs in concert. It ought to be an interesting experience.

The last matter was the list of Spring 1999 commencement candidates. There was a copy here at the meeting as well as in the Senate office. We needed a motion to pass on that list of candidates. If anyone was concerned about not having had a chance to look at it, you could abstain and look at it in the Senate office. Senator Dolli Markovich moved approval of the list, and this was seconded by Senator Richards. The Senate then approved the list with no abstentions.

V. REPORTS

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY - The Chair recognized President Luis Proenza who made the following remarks:

"Thank you, Madame Chairperson. I am particularly pleased to hear your excitement and enthusiasm about the Carnegie Teaching Academy. I was just talking a moment ago with Jean Blosser, who was similarly excited about the presence on our campus of a very distinguished individual, who happens to be a visiting professor in our College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering, R. Byron Pipes, the former President of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, who will be sharing with our campus community not only his expertise in the sciences but in fact the wonderful role that Rensselaer has done in bringing to their campus a commitment to interactive learning that has gotten a tremendous amount of national attention, not to speak of the wonderful success and marketing features and really attractive aspects - significant enhancement to the teaching environment. So I'm excited that you feel so enthused, and it really is a wonderful segue into the beginning of my comments.

I've now had the great pleasure of having visited all of our academic units with the exception of a couple of departments. I've visited every college and academic unit we have and am about three-fourths of the way through the administrative units. The most significant lesson I've learned is that in every place I've visited I was so excited to find things you hadn't told me that are truly exceptional and growing features for our University to be recognized. I am very enthusiastic and quite excited about what we have in our future.

In fact, you are aware that just last week the 'U.S. News and World Report' issued its annual rankings, and while there are many things to say as caveats to each and every one of those rankings, our College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering continues to be ranked as no. 2 in the nation, and that makes The University of Akron the only public university in Ohio to have a science program ranked in the top 5. Behind us are institutions like Cal Tech, MIT, and deep into sixth place is Case Western Reserve, which, however, cooperates very well with us and we're excited about that cooperation.

In addition, in our College of Arts & Sciences the Industrial/Organizational Psychology program is ranked 7th in the nation, our Law School came up in its own rankings, and in terms of placement of graduates was ranked right alongside places like Georgetown and Harvard. In addition, the employment rate for our graduates was the highest in Ohio.

I'm sure there are many other superlatives that I'd like to perhaps note later on, but indeed what I have sampled are nuggets, if you will, places and people that reflect real excellence. I'm certainly bullish about our future, to use the metaphor of the current bull market. It's helping us; we're up to about \$156 million in our endowment and that should help us to meet our challenges.

Let me touch on just a couple of them. Your Executive Committee has been meeting with me regularly, and one of their concerns expressed is that you've been hearing things about planning but you're concerned about how this is going to happen, and I can't tell you because I don't know. But let me assure you first and foremost that as we move forward, the initial step is to include a fairly broad representation of our campus, and certainly the Senate will be represented either through its Executive Committee or Executive Committee and chairpersons or some other grouping that you might tell me is perhaps more appropriate. Ultimately, every person on campus will have an opportunity to participate, so please be assured that we will continue to have regular and open communication, and as soon as I have a framework to communicate to you, I will do so. What has been happening very simply is the vice presidents, deans and selected directors have been meeting to build a common vocabulary. I've given them some homework, as I indicated, and we're trying to put some ideas on the table from which we will gather a larger group from which we will spring forth to the full campus in due time.

Shortly, I'll yield the floor to bring to you two of my colleagues, but what they will have to tell you deals obviously with things we don't yet have full information about. The budget process has not yet been completed in Columbus, and that will be part of what we have to face in that regard. Also, Provost Leathers informed me this morning that he and Hank Nettleing have just about completed the briefing I will need in order to work with you and others in terms of determining how we go forward from the early retirement program next year. So those are two key elements that we'll need to integrate into our planning process just for this year and for the future as well.

Again, I remind you and I indicated this the last time or certainly to the Executive Committee, the Committee on the Status of Women has completed its report, and I invite all of you who wish to do so to a reception on April 7 at 10:30 a.m. in the Student Center's Elm Room where the committee and I will join with the campus community in discussing the report and bringing it to your attention more fully. So I urge you to come if you'd like. These are serious issues which, of course, meet with your own interests in matters of equity, and we are going to pursue them together and seriously.

You had asked last time that we update you on the plans with regard to where the master plan is from Sasaki & Assoc., and more importantly perhaps is to give you a sense of how our planning for capital construction is emerging. You've been hearing about this for some time. The Trustees I can tell you are very enthusiastic and committed to making this happen, and our preliminary plans are balancing some very complex issues, because it involves sequencing events on our campus and flows of dollars in ways that are not simple. It's like a master chess game - before you can do one thing you have to move another piece, and in the process hopefully not get checkmated, as the old saying goes. But I think the staff under Hank Nettleing and under Ted Curtis and Ramesh Vakamudi have done an exceptional job, and I yield the balance of my time for their brief report to you. Thank you, Madame Chair."

Mr. Ramesh Vakamudi, Director of Campus Planning, distributed a handout (Appendix A), listing the projects which he would be covering and then made the following remarks:

"We have about 25 projects now; some we're working on concurrently. We're working on the campus development guide plan; Sasaki & Assoc. from Boston is working on it. Some of you are already on the general committee on that. We met the last time in January and are planning to go back and meet all the committees some time in May and take it for formal Board approval at the June Board meeting. We're already working on the Arts & Sciences classroom building and have a program signed up from the dean. We are proceeding with the preliminary concepts and hope to break ground about a year from today on that building, and you know that it's going to be behind the Bierce Library. Then it will be followed by Leigh Hall and Whitby renovation. We need some swing space to the Leigh Hall and Whitby renovation. We have Leigh Hall monies available from the state, but we cannot do this until Arts & Sciences is completed.

Polsky, 3rd and 5th floor are very critical to any of the construction we're planning. We need that existing space. We're already working on the 3rd floor renovation and are using the steelcase pathway system. We plan to move the Psychology Dept. by some time in December of this year into Polsky 3rd floor, and also we'll do Polsky 5th floor by summer of next year, and then start the student recreation center. The student recreation center is planned to go where the existing Spicer Hall is. The plan is to tie the rec center with the existing ONAT, because the swimming pool is an essential part of any rec center. We didn't want to duplicate the existing facility, so we want to physically tie the JAR sports complex, the basketball arena, and the Ocasek Natatorium, and the rec center will be part of that complex.

Then we want to start the student union in two phases because of the amount of construction. We talked to different student groups, different committees, for a suitable location for this building, and it keeps coming back to the existing location. It's centrally located but it's a complex construction problem for us to do it in the existing space, so we decided to do it the right way and broke it up into two phases. Phase 1 will be where existing Simmons and the boiler plant is. We will do Phase 1 and take the existing building down, do Phase 2 and then tie them together. It's going to be about a 4-yr. process. At this time we're looking at completion by the end of the year 2004.

Parking deck, no. 10 item is also very critical. The Sasaki Plan is showing some green spaces on campus in order to get there, and also we're going to lose some 300 spaces when we do Arts & Sciences. We're going to temporarily lose some 300-400 spaces for a period of time when we start fixing Exchange and Auburn Sciences parking decks, so we need a deck in place in order to make some of this happen, and we're looking at the parking deck on the east side of the campus. Also, a student rec center will be a heavy traffic generator and will not be successful unless there is a deck nearby where they can park and then use the center. So we want to go ahead with that project. Actually, we'd like to start right away, but everything has to fall in place.

Then the student affairs building - we had a program and we want to go back and take a look at it again, and it's probably going to be a 120,000 sq. ft. building consolidating all the student affairs functions into this building. Whatever is in Spicer Hall right now - registration, financial aid, admissions building, those functions will go in this building and then we'll demolish the admissions building. That's the plan on the student affairs building now.

Auburn Sciences renovation - we all know there are major structural problems with that building and with that deck. We need to fix the structural problems in that deck before we do anything with the Science & Tech Library expansion. For the Science & Tech Library expansion we have monies available from the state right now, so that's why there's a link between those two projects on your handout.

We are proceeding with parking deck renovations phase 1, which is basically EJ Thomas, Exchange parking deck, and Polsky parking deck. It's going to be about 2 years but in phases again; you're not going to lose the spaces at one time. It's going to the Board at the April Board meeting, and we'll set the design up for parking deck renovations phase 1. Then we have to address the Schrank plaza and the deck renovation following that, but it all ties into the bond financing of monies, because the funds for those come from the sale of the bonds, not from state capital projects.

Polymer Engineering annex - we met with the dean yesterday and we're proceeding with it. Our plan is to break ground on this by the end of this year or early next year and have the building ready within a year after we break ground. One thing you see on this handout is it's a draft; it's preliminary right now and we're still discussing with administration some of these issues. Also, there are some aggressive construction and design schedules on this which we haven't done here yet on this campus. With Ted Curtis on board we would hope to get his and Dr. Proenza's direction on this.

You all know that Bulger Hall is underway. We are a little bit behind schedule but are talking in July from my discussion with the construction manager yesterday. That will be followed by Spanton Hall and then finally Ritchie, one of the final low-rise dorms we have. There is some talk about southwestern quad renovation, the Grant high-rise, the town houses, Gallucci, mostly interior furnishings and those kinds of renovations, not major structural renovations. Then we're talking about Robertson renovation to the existing dining hall. There's been some talk about whether to move the Robertson dining function into the new student union. There are some advantages to that, but if that's the case there will be existing space in Robertson. Even if we don't move, we need to fix the dining hall, the interior furnishings and everything else.

We're talking with the city about street closings and landscaping permits. We have requested the city to officially close Carroll and Union Streets, Carroll from Wolf Ledges to Spicer, and Union from Buchtel to Exchange. We have a joint traffic study with the city, a consultant working on it. We have a preliminary draft that looks very good at this point and we're proceeding on that. Following that, to implement the Sasaki Plan we need to start working on a strategy for landscape improvements. One of their preliminary concepts is to make a college green in front of Buchtel Hall at the Martin fountain by the library. That whole block between the fountain and Buchtel Ave. could be a major green space as you come into the campus. It's going to be something similar to the lines of the University of Virginia or Ohio State, the big O there. Then all this will be done in conjunction with the building demolitions.

We plan to take some buildings down down the line as we've been talking about for about 10 years - Central Stores and the Admissions building and Simmons and the boiler plant. We're also talking about an athletic field house that will be physically tied to the student rec center but will be two different structures. This athletic field house will have a 6-lane indoor track for NCAA practice and meets, followed by an indoor football practice field, and could be also used for a women's/men's soccer practice field. Then we also have in mind the research support facility, so we're still trying to come to grips with it having to be funded with state capital projects, but it has to follow somewhere in the biennium - everything has a competing interest. So it's there because it's a priority to us."

President Proenza thanked Mr. Vakamudi and asked the body to hold its questions until after Mr. Hank Nettling had made his presentation. He wanted to assure those members who might be wondering about some of their other favorite projects, that none of those had been forgotten. For example, the Guzzetta Hall addition was very important to us. We were trying to figure out how that could be financed and then perhaps work that into this list. This list was a draft; we were trying to figure out how the pieces fit and how they had to be sequenced in.

Mr. Hank Nettling, Interim Vice President for Business and Finance, then gave the following remarks:

"Mr. President and colleagues, Mr. Vakamudi has presented a very ambitious plan for this campus in terms of facilities. We believe that our marketing efforts will be enhanced by these facilities that we're proposing, and hopefully that will bring us the cream of the crop as far as the students that we want. At the same time, old, dreary, inefficient buildings will be replaced by modern structures that will make way for meeting our research, student life, and instructional mission. The campus in general will continue to blossom into a plan that will be more self-contained with perimeter boundaries that will be more noticeable than we are today. To carry out these plans (these 25-some projects that will be changing up and down as we go forward) we'll also embark on a very ambitious financing plan. It is in the works right now; there is not a great deal of detail that we can give you at this time; however, I can give you some round numbers. We will be issuing general receipts bonds which will pledge the assets of the University including tuition and fees, etc. We expect the outlying projects that you see on the plan to cost us anywhere between \$170-185 million. Bond sales are projected roughly to be \$115-127 million. The remainder of the revenue will come from investment earnings while the construction process is going on. That's investment earnings on the bonds that we will sell. The debt service, once we have these bonds issued, will come from several places, particularly student facilities fees in terms of the student union and rec center, and parking. We intend to have faculty and staff user fees and public user fees for, more than likely, the rec center and parking. Finally, we are also beginning to discuss with private developers, prior operating partnerships that will potentially give us some additional revenue, particularly in the student rec center. So that would be very helpful. In addition, part of the projects also involve energy conservation and we hope that with the energy conservation we will also accrue some savings that will also be used to pay off the bonds.

We will be challenged to develop the best financing package that we can get. We are presently out to bid for underwriters; in fact, I think the bids are in today. The underwriters will then provide us the assistance in putting the package together to eventually be presented to the Board of Regents for approval and then to our own Board of Trustees. Students have voiced their opinions in past surveys that they are willing to share in the cost of these facilities, and we're going to try to keep those fees as low as possible, but no doubt there will be increases in facilities fees. Faculty and staff will join their colleagues of sister institutions in Ohio by beginning to share parking fees. There are ways to work that out, and any sharing on parking fees if they are payroll deducted will be pre-taxed, similar to what we now enjoy with some of our health care benefits we are able to buy. As I said, we are currently out for bids and hopefully this will all close some time in late June and early July so we can move ahead with the plans and eventually the ground-breaking of these very important facilities. First, as Ramesh mentioned, the rec center, student union, and the Arts & Sciences building will obviously be our first priority. Thank you."

The President wanted to make a couple of closing comments and then would entertain questions. First of all, with regard to the financing plan, members needed to understand that a large fraction of this was expected to come from state appropriations themselves, but a significant fraction needed to be funded through the sale of bonds indebtedness. This was very preliminary; however, it was an exciting time. In 1934 this campus had been but one small block that went from Buchtel Hall to Union and West, a street that no longer existed. Today, you knew the complexity of our campus, but you knew its challenges. We were also going to have to be challenging ourselves to recoup the deferred maintenance backlog that existed on the campus, part of which was addressed in the plan, part of which would need to continue to be addressed as we moved forward. You saw this in places like North Hall or parts of Schrank despite the many other fine facilities.

The Board of Regents had expressed significant interest, and for the first time had invited the University to make a comprehensive presentation to them at the May meeting outlining to them the kinds of considerations that we had made to put in place the beginnings of a master plan and master capital facilities development plan. We were not fully there; there was a whole array of details that had to emerge as we moved forward. This was a bird's eye view of what was being thought of and how it might come about. He welcomed questions from the body.

Senator Tim Norfolk was curious about the fees for the proposed wellness center. Would these be user fees that all faculty were going to pay or only those faculty using the facilities? The President responded that only those using the facilities would have to pay.

Senator Elizabeth Erickson had two sets of questions relating to issues that the Campus Facilities Planning Committee had been looking at since last Fall. One aspect of that related to financing. At the last meeting of the Senate, the Senate had passed a recommendation which requested that the PBC consider the long-term capital funding plans for the proposed capital projects reported to the Senate by the CFPC in December; in fact, the plans which appeared in Mr. Vakamudi's list. PBC's role was to examine and recommend on budget issues, and this was a part of that. This was to be done by late June or early July. She wanted to know about the process by which the PBC was to be involved in this discussion. There were a whole set of issues which related to student fees that needed discussion.

President Proenza stated that this was the first detailed presentation of what was a preliminary discussion. This would be going to the PBC and the Chair of the Senate to ensure that the dialogue continued. He wanted to assure Senator Erickson and the other members of the body that there were two broad issues here to be understood. First of all, there were no persons more concerned about the possible impact on the University than the Board of Trustees, the student government, and in particular, the student trustees. By the same token, these and other individuals, including ourselves, recognized that we had been sitting still on building aspects for 13 years, and that if we didn't begin aggressively, we would continue to fall behind. Our competitive advantage was already eroding, and we very desperately needed to put ourselves into the kind of competitive position that we enjoyed in other respects. Some universities near us were advertising that they were the premier university in the state of Ohio; and, he assured the body, we were and they were not.

Presenting the second part of her question, Senator Erickson noted that the CFPC was very enthusiastic about the building process and the idea of going to bond markets made a lot of sense. In fact, those who had read the December Chronicle had seen that the CFPC's list of proposed building priorities was very similar. The fact that there were some differences was not a problem for the Committee.

However, she thought that it would be wrong not to stress what the Committee had emphasized before, which was that the hazardous materials building (research support building) had to have really high priority. CFPC had put it in its top set of priorities, and it somehow had gotten put down at the end of this list. Having spent time really looking at this issue, the CFPC was seriously concerned about this.

President Proenza assured her that her point was quite well taken, and the set in the list was in no order of priority in the sense that she had expressed. It was largely what had to happen sequentially in order for this to go forward.

Senator C. Frank Griffin commented that there were a number of buildings not on this list anywhere; for example, one in which he taught. The classroom he had in this building had 115 chairs and many of them were broken. Some had been fixed, but there were still five broken. Would ongoing upkeep of buildings be included in this?

The President said that he had mentioned this in the context of preferred maintenance which was an entirely different list than the one brought to the Senate today. He had asked for an updated version of that list because it needed to go through a series of very careful examinations. The sort of question which Senator Griffin was raising was included in that list. What was the building and classroom?

When Senator Griffin responded that it was Ayer Hall, room 19, it was confirmed that it was on the list. The President added that because of the complexities, never hesitate to remind him of things like this which needed to be looked at.

Senator H. Michael Cheung had two concerns. One had to do with a different kind of competitiveness that we had had a problem with, and that was faculty salaries. In that environment, parking fees and other user fees were semantically equivalent to "pay cut," and he hoped that some thought to that equivalence was on the table.

His second concern was going to sound technical and he apologized for dragging it out, but it might matter when the snow flew again. He had found out recently that in changing from making our own steam at the steam plant and now buying steam from the city of Akron, we now had 24-lb. steam instead of 60-lb. steam, at least in Auburn Science Engineering Center. That put out of commission a 30-yr. old distillation column in Chemical Engineering that had been designed for 60-lb. steam. He stated that 24-lb. steam was about 100 degrees centigrade cooler, and you could not get the heat duty out of it. Nobody had called him or his colleagues, so an experiment in the Chemical Engineering undergraduate laboratory was put completely out of commission. They had to redesign in mid-semester with students standing around wondering why they (the professors) looked like morons when this thing did not run. He occasionally looked like a moron, but he at least liked some forewarning. He had another concern though about the change in steam pressure that was not quite as parochial. Would the HVAC system work come winter, or should we be looking for good buys on long Johns?

The President answered that we had been on the city steam system now through the winter, so it did work running on the lower pressure. He asked that Senator Cheung get some feedback on this. This again was a good reason for having these kinds of dialogues.

Senator Oller wanted to say that he had been glad to hear that the President had mentioned Guzzetta Hall as something that was important. He thought that the extension was a good thing, and it

seemed even more important now in light of Chair Heinzerling's earlier statement that the building seemed to be going to the dogs.

Senator Markovich had heard that the building that housed the Computer Store was one of the oldest buildings on campus, being built in the 1800's. If this could be verified, was there any room in the plan for preserving that building, perhaps moving it?

The President replied that he would examine the footprint of that. He knew that there were preparations being made for accommodations for the space. He wanted also to go back to a point made by Senator Cheung. Depending on what the state did, we should be in a position to hopefully not have a situation of a fee increase resulting in a pay cut. He had recommended that we try to do everything we could to ensure that as we moved forward, we did not put in fee increases without accompanying pay increases that might be even larger than that. Otherwise, we might as well just take it and put it aside. Secondly, for our students there were some challenges here. Even though the state would allow us to raise tuition up to 6%, this might not be appropriate to do in the current fiscal environment where inflation had been so low. Also, we could not disproportionately disadvantage our students. They had spoken, and Senator Mormino and his colleagues had taken real leadership to help us not only plan the facilities, but also to keep communications moving so that the new generation of students had interest. Ultimately, what he would like to do was not to bring in a fee increase until a facility was in place if we could at all possibly do that.

He went on to say that we were not leaving any leaf unturned, and he had asked Vice President Nettling and the Provost to look at every conceivable cost saving that we could make. He had been with Senator Voinovich earlier this morning talking about what he and his colleagues might be able to help us with. He (the President) was just delighted when the Board of Regents had called us because they had to understand what this campus represented to northern Ohio, and he had talked over and over again to Senator Ray how much traffic that would be. He had been with a series of potential donors yesterday, and we were going to try to start forward with a commitment to make the fee structure, whether for faculty and staff or the students, the minimum that it could possibly be.

Senator John Edgerton said that there had been a mention that Carroll would be closed from Wolf Ledges to Spicer. He presumed that there would still be a possible method for getting access to Schrank and the Ayer decks?

The President responded that this plan was evolving, and Mr. Vakamudi, together with the Mayor's staff and Mr. Curtis, would be working on a plan that effectively blocked access in the through sense, although one contingency plan would include the possibility of public transit to continue through but not automobile traffic. There was anticipation that we would have what the architects and master planners called penetration points and turn-around points to provide access to those facilities.

In regard to the parking and the pre-tax and post-tax dollars, Senator Paul Richert hoped that some consideration would be given to those who used public transportation to be able to use the pre-tax dollars for their transit needs as well. The President replied that this was a good suggestion.

REMARKS OF THE PROVOST - There were none.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - Secretary Oller reported that the Committee had met on March 10 and had dealt with a variety of matters. It had also met on March 16 with President Proenza, Interim Associate Provost Wilson, General Counsel Mallo and Provost Leathers to discuss the conflict of interest proposal - both the Faculty Senate's version and the one currently before the Board - with Dr. Peter Dunn from Purdue University, who had been invited here by the President. The discussion was valuable and Dr. Dunn would be sending his comments and reactions regarding the proposal to Dr. Wilson, who would be sharing them with the Committee and the Senate when he received them. The Committee had also met for its regular monthly meeting with President Proenza and Presidential Executive Assistant Walton on March 30 to discuss matters of mutual concern.

Secretary Oller closed with a plea to committee chairs. If they had uncompleted business which had been sent to them by the Senate, there was only one more month and one meeting left in May. If they had not done what they had been asked to do, please get cracking and get it done.

The Chair added that she would like to have a report from each committee by the May meeting, if in fact that committee had not reported this semester. This would give us closure by the end of the year.

UNIVERSITY WELL-BEING COMMITTEE - Dr. Al Lieberman, the Chair, reported that the Committee, with the very competent assistance of Jesse Marquette, had surveyed the more than 2,000 University employees who were covered by the University health care plans. They had received more than 900 responses, and Senator Marquette would now go over the results of the survey.

"This is a very simple survey covering issues about the perception of the quality of coverage that was provided, the quality of care, and a general question about the overall quality of their experience with the plan. Nearly 42% of the individuals indicated that they were very satisfied with the quality of coverage; 43% were satisfied. You can read the rest of the list there (Appendix B1). We then gave them a series of opportunities to provide open-ended comments on problems with those same three areas. In terms of coverage, 16.5% provided comments, and about half of those who responded to the survey indicated that they had some issue that was involved with billing. In terms of care quality, 6.1% provided comments, and I would say roughly 5% of the entire sample indicated they had some concern with inefficiency of access to the health care provider. In terms of customer service, about 10% provided comments and of those roughly 3/4 or about 7% indicated they had some concern with inefficiency of the procedures that were used in terms of dealing with customer service. In terms of the general coverage, 33% of the respondents provided comments, and 21% of the entire sample made a comment that in some way said we really like the traditional coverage or we're pleased with our current coverage, and they were reasonably happy with that. This is the actual distribution - they were given 5 response possibilities for the overall satisfaction of the quality of the coverage available, and you can see that the vast majority of respondents indicated that they were satisfied. You have a very high level of satisfaction in terms of the quality of care that respondents indicated they had received from the various health care providers. These are very low numbers here in terms of being ambivalent or being very dissatisfied. So overall, you have around 85% of respondents indicating that they were satisfied or very satisfied with their experience with their medical plan during the 1998 year, because this did ask them to respond in terms of their 1998 coverage.

We then broke the overall set of responses up because we had asked people what coverage they had and also asked them their personal status in term of whether they were a faculty member, a staff

member, contract professional, and so on (Appendix B2). So you see as you might expect, there are some differences in the sense that for the people involved in the traditional plan, the level of being very satisfied was substantially larger than either of the HMO's that are currently available, whereas the HMO's especially in terms of the Kaiser plan have a much larger percentage indicating they were satisfied. So there was somewhat less enthusiasm in terms of the two HMO's in terms of coverage satisfaction. But it was not a substantial problem in terms of indicating that they were either very dissatisfied or dissatisfied. Again, the same distinction is made in terms of quality of care with the actual high level quality of care here under terms of very satisfied among people in the traditional plan, satisfaction being indicated by those individuals who are in the two HMO's (Appendix B3). This is the overall satisfaction level and, again, the traditional plan stands out in terms of the proportion of the respondents indicating that they are very satisfied, and the HMO's tending to garner satisfaction rather than very satisfied responses (Appendix B4). But again, you have a very large proportion of all the respondents on the side of satisfied. That is one of the reasons we give them a balanced scale, so they can choose to say very upset; in fact, very few people indicated they had a significant problem no matter what type of coverage they were receiving.

We then divided this up in terms of the type of individual, as we wanted to know whether or not there was substantial problems in terms of the kind of colleague that was reporting to us, and in fact there is no difference here between whether you're faculty, staff, administrator, or contract professional in terms of the overall satisfaction level with the plans that were available (Appendix B5). We asked people whether or not they had contact with the customer service units of the plan, and the lowest level but close to a majority have had some contact with the customer service unit during the previous year in terms of either having to respond to a bill or ask a question. We then asked whether or not they felt the customer service units had been responsive in terms of three different issues (Appendix B6). First of all, how courteous the plan representatives were when they were contacted by the employee, and those were all in the range of 95% or better in terms of the way in which our colleagues were treated when they contacted the plan. Around 85% and slightly lower for Kaiser, there was a difference in terms of the level of feeling that the questions were answered fully to their satisfaction, but again, more than 4/5 of the respondents indicated that the questions they asked were adequately answered by the service personnel. Finally, close to 80% on average indicated that they were satisfied with the promptness of the response they received from the units when they in fact had to deal with them.

This is the actual distribution of individuals in the three different types of plans, and this is the sample distribution that we obtained (Appendix B7). This is the distribution of response by employee type, and this is the actual distribution of faculty, staff, administrators, and contract professionals (Appendix B8). Actually, those are reversed, but in any event you can see they are appropriate, even though they're mislabeled. So I think that the basic conclusion to be reached from this is that our colleagues are generally quite satisfied with the set of choices they have available to them, the way they're treated, and the kinds of care or coverage they're receiving so far.

We did do another survey that I'll have some information on later. The problem is the original population end was small because it is the medical school, and they are different. They have a PPO as well. I'll present some information since the Well-Being Committee is concerned with the possibility of using a PPO as being actively explored, so it'll be interesting to see what the response is in terms of comparison of the PPO. They have the same traditional two HMO's and the PPO out at NEOUCOM. The problem is that the original population is so small, and I've only got about 160 respondents to work with, so I think we're going to have to throw together the HMO's rather than break them out as we did

here in order to have a sample size that's reasonable so that one person doesn't change the recorded percentages by 10% if they change their mind. That survey has been completed and we'll be moving forward with that. Are there any questions?"

Dr. Lieberman added that the Well-Being Committee planned to survey the employees every two years because the length of the contract was two years.

Senator Filer-Tubaugh asked whether there had ever been the thought of surveying part-time faculty to see what kinds of services they would like to possibly be able to purchase. In meetings she had attended they did not feel that what was now being offered to them was economical, and given what they were making, was out of range for what they could pay.

Dr. Lieberman responded that one of the problems was that carriers were sometimes reluctant to cover the part-time faculty. This was the problem that the University had run into at the last contract, but the Committee did have the part-time faculty's interests in mind.

President Proenza, commenting that he had recently negotiated at staff benefit plans for graduate staff and graduate students at Purdue, pointed out that any time you got a smaller group of students in a category that was not covered by staff because they were part-time, the carrier, willing to bid on it, immediately hiked the rates for that group up by a very substantial amount. It was difficult to get those costs down to a level at which a full-time group of employees was able to afford students for that amount.

Senator Filer-Tubaugh thought that there were a large number of part-time faculty on this campus who would be interested in this, but since there had been no survey we were unaware of it. A lot of them were covered by husbands or other spouses, but she knew that there were numbers on this campus who took one class a semester so they could buy student insurance.

Dr. Lieberman noted that presently there were fewer than 50 part-time employed faculty covered by the plan. Senator Filer-Tubaugh reiterated that it had mainly to do with costs and the services that were bought for those costs.

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND CALENDAR COMMITTEE - Senator Sheryl Stevenson, the Chair, presented a recommendation (Appendix C) that was not very controversial and had originated in the Modern Language Department. Students who were pursuing a major could get 6 bypassed credits by, for example, testing out of having to take a certain course. However, if you were pursuing a minor, you weren't allowed to do that. The following recommendation which changed the current language in the bulletin from the Committee addressed this: **Courses for a minor may not be taken credit/non-credit. A maximum of 6 bypassed credits may be used, but all other credits must be earned.**

Senator Marquette said that he would like to move to postpone this motion until the next meeting. He wanted to have an opportunity to look into the subsidy implications of granting a much more liberal bypass credit policy. He did not believe that we would get subsidy if we had bypassed credit, but he honestly could not answer the question at this point. He moved to postpone until the May meeting and Senator Griffin seconded that motion.

For clarification, Senator Oller asked whether Senator Marquette's office would be doing the investigation of what the ramifications of this would be so that the Senate would have some information

on this at its next meeting. Senator Marquette replied that it would.

Senator Markovich wondered whether the intent of the original motion had been to institute this new policy for the next bulletin - 1999-2000 undergraduate bulletin.

Senator Stevenson replied that she did not think the Committee had thought about it that far. Senator Markovich noted that if this was postponed until the May meeting, it might not make it into the undergraduate bulletin until 2000-2001.

The Senate then approved the motion to postpone.

CURRICULUM REVIEW COMMITTEE - Associate Provost Jean Blosser, the Chair, reported that she had submitted a written report of those curriculum proposals that had been reviewed to date (**Appendix D**). We were coming up against the deadline for the bulletin, and she hoped that everything would be passed and reviewed in time. She was working very closely with the office that was preparing the bulletin and was confident at this point.

CAMPUS FACILITIES PLANNING COMMITTEE - Senator Elizabeth Erickson, the Chair, brought to the attention of the body action items related to space utilization contained in her report (full report- **Appendix E**). They read as follows: 1) That Room 22 in the Olsen Building be reallocated to Polymer Engineering as a storage room, with concurrent reallocation of Polymer Science storage in the Lincoln Building to the Police Department. 2) That 20,000 sq. ft. of unassigned space on the third floor of the Polsky building be allocated as temporary space for the offices of the Department of Psychology. The Department will move from Simmons Hall, which is scheduled for demolition. 3) That 4,000 sq. ft. of unassigned space on the fifth floor of the Polsky building be allocated to the newly created Center for Social and Health Policy, which will be moved temporarily to Carroll 55. These were motions coming from the Committee.

Since there was no discussion, the Senate voted its approval of the space reallocations.

RESEARCH FACULTY PROJECTS COMMITTEE - Senator Mark Tausig, the Chair, reported that the Committee had finished its grant review cycle last month. Of 71 faculty research grant proposals submitted for the academic year, 35 had been funded worth about \$220,000, which was up about \$10,000 from last year. There were 17 in sciences, 11 in humanities, and 7 in social sciences. The quality of the proposals had improved this year as it had in past years, so it was becoming a very competitive process.

The Committee had spent some time discussing its role in the University's transition to Research II. Faculty research grants were intended to be seeds for further scholarship and external grant activity. An analysis done last year showed that since 1985 the Committee had funded over 600 projects that had resulted in 1,500 external grants with an average value of \$70,000. To encourage the process of turning that seed money into external grant applications, the Committee had recommended to the Associate Provost for Research, Ed Wilson, that an incentive system for federal grant submission be established. Recipients of faculty research grants during the 1998-99 year recently received notice that they could obtain an additional \$2,000 award if they submitted a proposal to a qualifying federal agency based on their faculty research grant project within a year following receipt of their faculty research grant. The Committee was continuing to consider ways in which it could facilitate research activity on campus. Today he would be introducing as new business a proposed change in Faculty Senate Bylaws to redefine

the research committee so that it had responsibility for both internal and external research grant activity. This change would give the Senate input into the process of moving to Research II status. Finally, as Chair of the Committee, he wanted to thank the members of the Committee for their hard work reviewing proposals this year.

GENERAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE - Associate Provost Blosser, on behalf of Pam Hollinger, the Chair, summarized the written report (**Appendix F**). GEAC had been an extremely busy committee this year with representation from across the campus. They were reviewing the assessment plan that had been submitted to NCA in the fall of 1997 and had gone through a process of looking at materials, coordinating assessment with the Student Assessment Task Force, conducting interviews with deans, and then conducting interviews with chairs, and then this year had begun interviewing course program directors whose colleges were teaching in the general education program. The next segment - interviewing student focus groups - would begin in the next few weeks.

Among other things that the Committee had been looking at were the reading and writing components of the curriculum, how general education funds had been spent, and any further services that the advisory committee could offer to further develop the general education courses as well as working with the faculty that teach those courses. They were also going to take a very active role in the Teaching Academy and on April 12 would be sponsoring a conversation. Over lunch, some questions would be put out on the table and participants could discuss those or any other questions relating to general education issues which might come up.

Senator Cheung suggested that GEAC might want to get feedback from departments whose majors were taking the general education sequence. They also had pedagogical concerns about how that fit with their views of their curriculum. Associate Provost Blosser invited him to attend the lunch on the 12th to raise the issue.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - There was none.

VII. NEW BUSINESS - The Chair recognized Senator Tausig, who on behalf of the Research Faculty Projects Committee, presented a motion to amend its description in the Senate Bylaws (**Appendix G**). Right now, it had no formal responsibility for anything to do with any external grants or any other kind of research planning and activities on campus. The Committee was recommending the following: **Change the name of the committee to "Faculty Research Committee;" and add as provision no. 1 in its description, "The Committee shall advise the Faculty Senate on all University activities relating to funded, both internal and external, research activities."** This simple change in the Bylaws would establish a pathway for the Committee to advise the Senate and for the Senate to be represented in decision making campus-wide.

Since there was no discussion, the Chair said that the motion would lay over for one month and the body would vote on it in May.

Senator Peggy Richards, on behalf of the part-time faculty, presented the following motion: **"The Faculty Senate recommends that no changes be made to the current part-time faculty designations without prior approval by the Senate."** This was seconded by Senator Filer-Tubaugh.

Senator Richards then presented her rationale. There was a long history on how we had gotten the current designations of the part-time faculty. What the Senate had approved were the auxiliary, continuing, and renewable positions. Over the summer last year, unfortunately, three additional levels had been created that changed the total of part-time faculty positions from three to nine. It had occurred as a matter of accident, she assumed, when the part-time faculty's budget had been created. Instead of doing one pay scale, they had created an auxiliary lecturer 1,2,3, a continuing lecturer 1,2,3, and a renewable lecturer 1,2,3. Consequently, we had found ourselves in a mess in September, and to Associate Provost Blosser's credit, she had been working on a method of trying to rearrange this mess. In the meantime, each of the positions had carried an amount of hours that went along with positions so that the whole premise of why we had established the positions had become distorted. They had been established to recognize and reward part-time faculty who did have excellence in teaching and continued service to the University. The Provost, in order to help alleviate the mess in September, had taken the lid off and now all part-time faculty could teach up to 21 hours a year. That meant that somebody straight out of graduate school who hadn't even finished a masters might be working in a department and teach 12 hours of English in the fall and 9 hours in the spring in English or any other department, which had not been the intent of the original proposal at all. Before any further changes were made or new messes created, she wanted to make sure that the Senate had the opportunity to review and comment on any proposed changes.

The Senate then passed the motion.

VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER - Senator Ralph Turek brought a memo from Provost Leathers to the Council of Deans to the body's attention. It concerned the proposed change in scholarship policy to limit graduate tuition scholarships to one year only. This had caught him and his colleagues by surprise. He had two concerns and a question. The first concern was that his school used the scholarship as a secondary recruitment resource, and it was very difficult to recruit graduate students for a 2-yr. degree and only be able to promise them one year of scholarship support. This change would effectively do away with that recruitment device. The second concern was that this had dropped out of the air; there had been no discussion that he knew of concerning this. He knew that in Graduate Council there had been some discussion about reducing the total number of scholarship credit by some 25% next year and further reductions later, but there never had been any talk about limiting the scholarship support to one year.

It seemed that the rationale for this was to address the problem of students receiving tuition fee waivers with no service requirement in Ohio institutions. He wondered whether a better way to solve that wouldn't have been to simply add a service requirement rather than limiting the scholarship support to a single year. A full one-third of the Music School's graduate population was on scholarship, and he doubted whether any of them would be there if they had known it would be for a single year only. He was not sure what to propose here, but he was simply putting the question out and asking whether this was something that shouldn't be acted on by the Council of Deans at their meeting next week. If approved there, it would become policy for next year. His school had been caught so much by surprise that they had actually had a number of scholarship contracts returned to them from the Graduate School with a request to have them rewritten.

Provost Noel Leathers replied that he had gotten the gist of what Senator Turek was asking. With the consent of the body, he wanted to take a look at this and report back to the Senate at its next meeting with a definitive statement. One problem here was that if you required a work assignment out of a

student, you had immediately changed it from being a scholarship to being taxable income. So there were complications involved in this.

Senator Erickson stated that earlier, the President had mentioned that we were the premier University in northeast Ohio. We were certainly the only university in Ohio that had an annual Nobel Prize winning lecturer in Economics. This was the 12th year for the Emile Grunberg Lecture, and Professor Robert Fogel, an economic historian at the University of Chicago, would be speaking on the topic of the fourth great awakening and the future of egalitarianism. His book on this subject would be coming out in January 2000, so this was a chance to really be in on some cutting-edge discussion. The lecture would be on Friday, April 23, at 2 o'clock p.m. in the Gardner Student Center Theatre.

Senator Cheung had heard today from the Dean of Engineering that there might be a change in commencement practice which, if true, would disturb him. This was that Ph.D advisors would no longer hood their Ph.D students. As a Ph.D advisor, he cherished hooding his Ph.D's and would hate to lose that either as a duty or a prerogative. The decision had been attributed to President Proenza.

President Proenza said that he had not seen any actual plan on this. What he had decided was that we were going to offer our students a quality and marvelous experience by moving the ceremony to EJ Thomas. This reduced the size creating an atmosphere of dignity and ceremony. That had been his decision, but he would review the issue Senator Cheung had raised because he did not know whether that had been a decision he even would recommend. He thought he had suggested that the Dean of the Graduate School be present at the hooding, and he knew that they had been looking at some logistical issues. If they had asked him something that had bypassed him, he apologized.

Senator Virginia Gunn had heard comments from students who felt that there would be much more limited tickets for their families in EJ Thomas than there were in JAR. Was that true?

The President thought that more limited was perhaps an exaggeration. There was, of course, a limitation in that EJ Thomas did present a smaller total venue. Most students requested 2 to 6 tickets. He believed that EJ Thomas had required that they limit it to 5, but he would check on that again because he did not have the exact number.

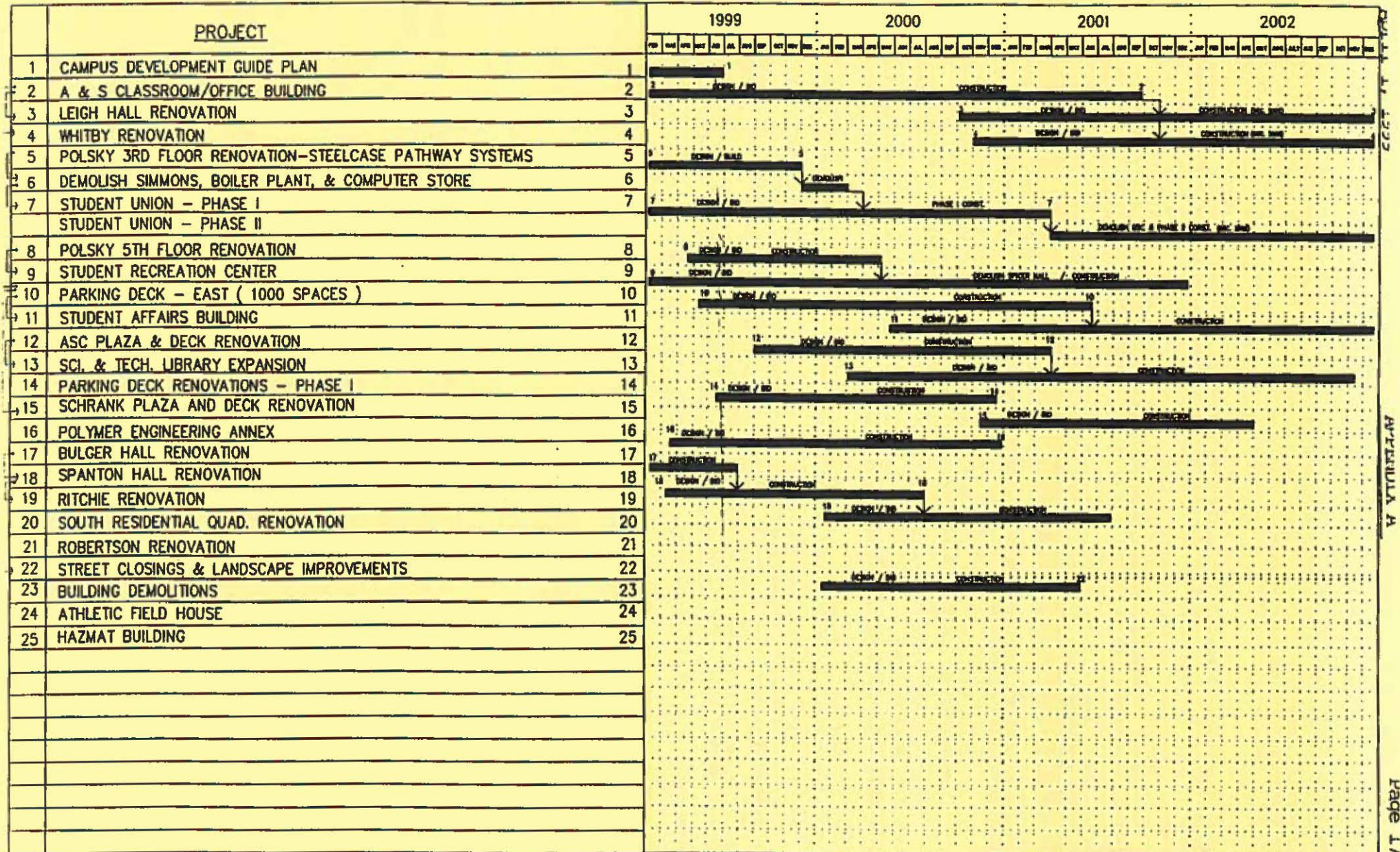
Senator Gunn noted that while some people might only need two, some of our students came from very large families who attended graduation because the student was also a first-time-ever college graduate. They might need more than five tickets.

President Proenza said that it had been recommended that Student Affairs develop a process for providing a means of trade-off of tickets as appropriate.

IX. ADJOURNMENT - There was a motion to adjourn which was seconded. The body voted its approval and the meeting ended at 4:31.

CAPITAL PROJECTS CHRONOLOGICAL SCHEDULE (DRAFT)

(FEBRUARY 1999 - DECEMBER 2002)

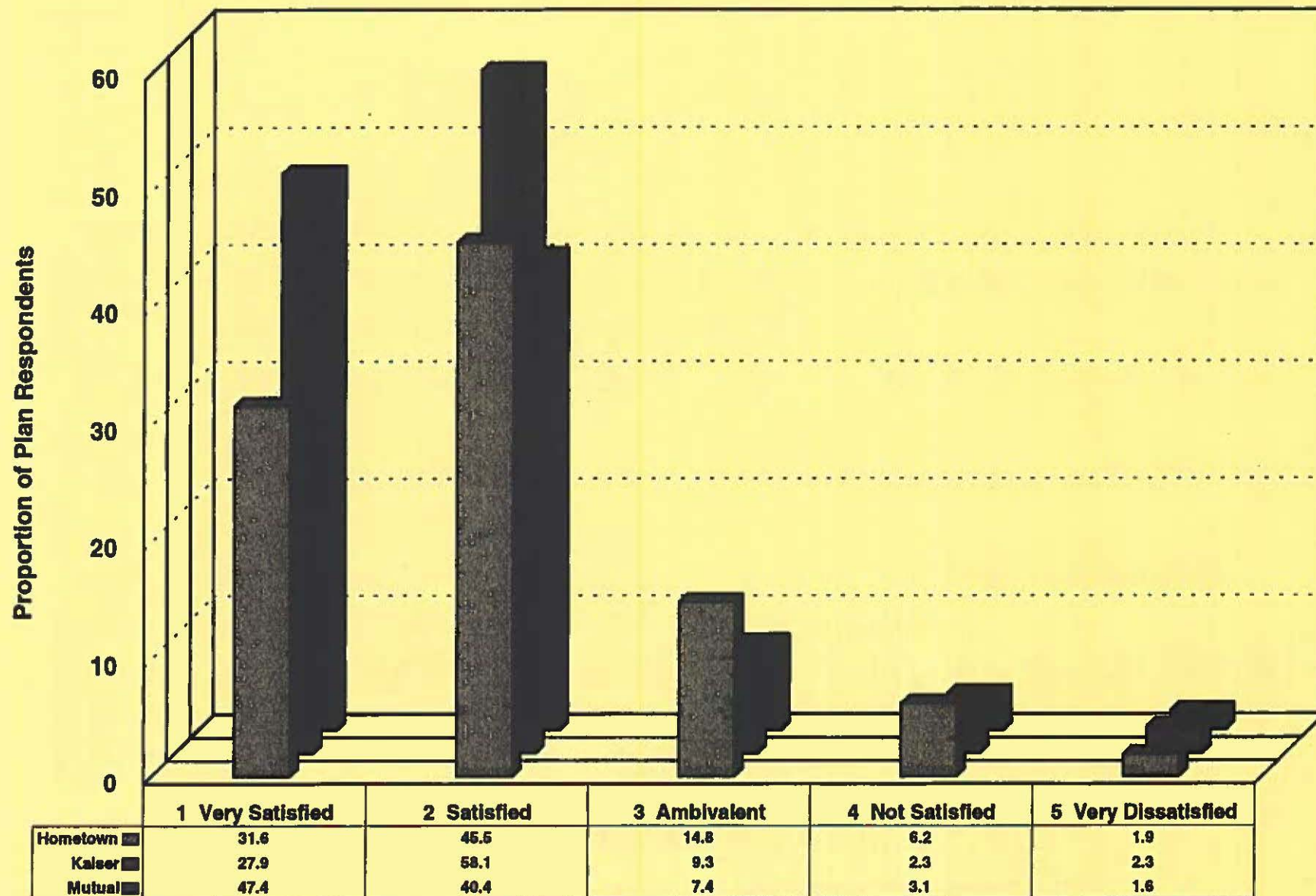


Health Care Plan Evaluation Survey

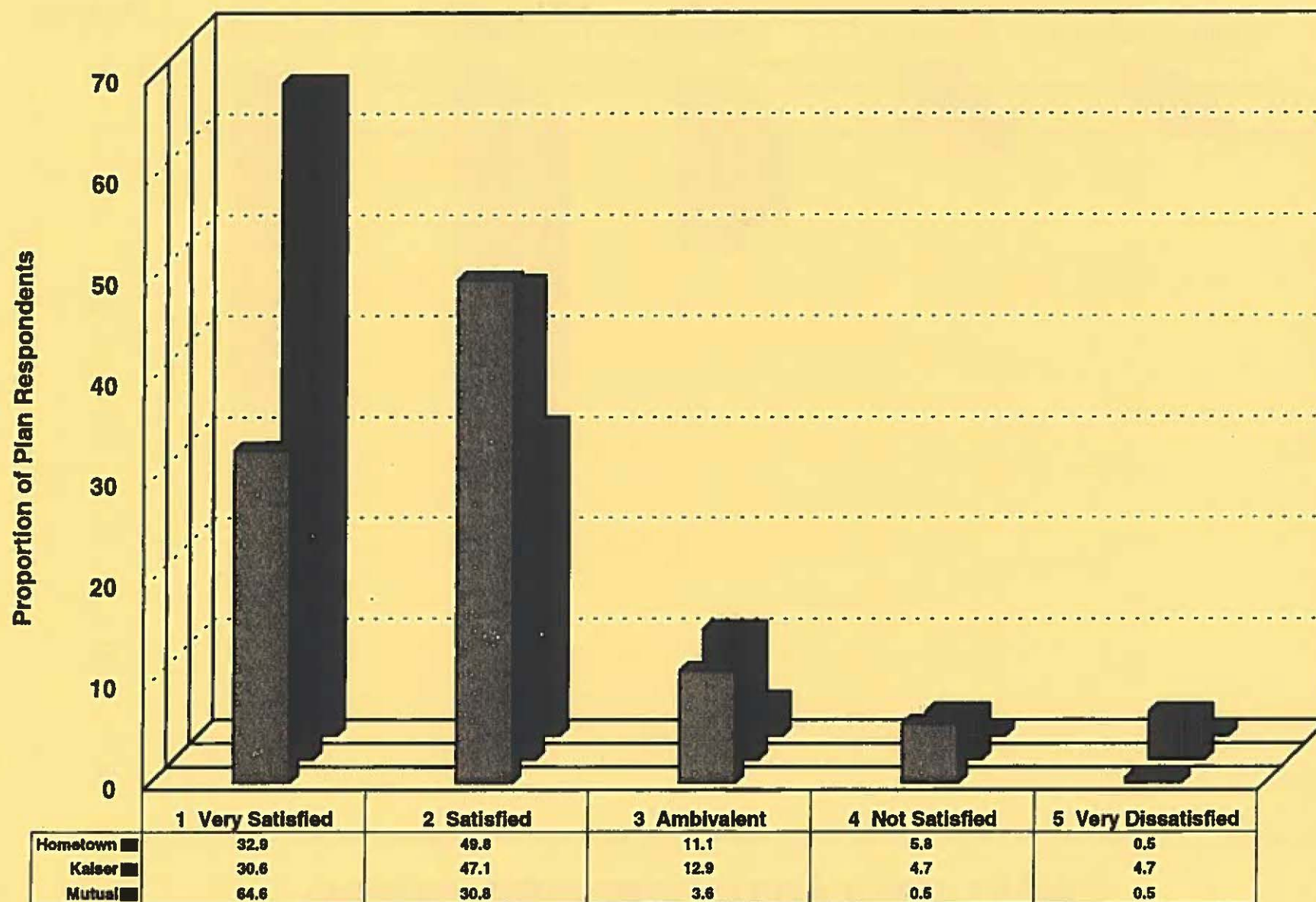
Executive Summary

- Quality of coverage provided - 42% Very Satisfied, 43% Satisfied
- Quality of care available - 54% Very Satisfied, 37% Satisfied
- Quality of overall experience with plan - 44% Very Satisfied, 42% Satisfied
- Three opportunities provided to comment on problems
 - Problems with coverage - 16.5% provided comments, half of those referred to billing issues
 - Problems with care quality - 6.1 % provided comments, most concerned with inefficiency of access
 - Problems with customer service - 10.7 % provided comments, most concerned with inefficiency of procedures
- General coverage comments - 33.2% provided comments, 21% said keep traditional coverage or pleased with current coverage

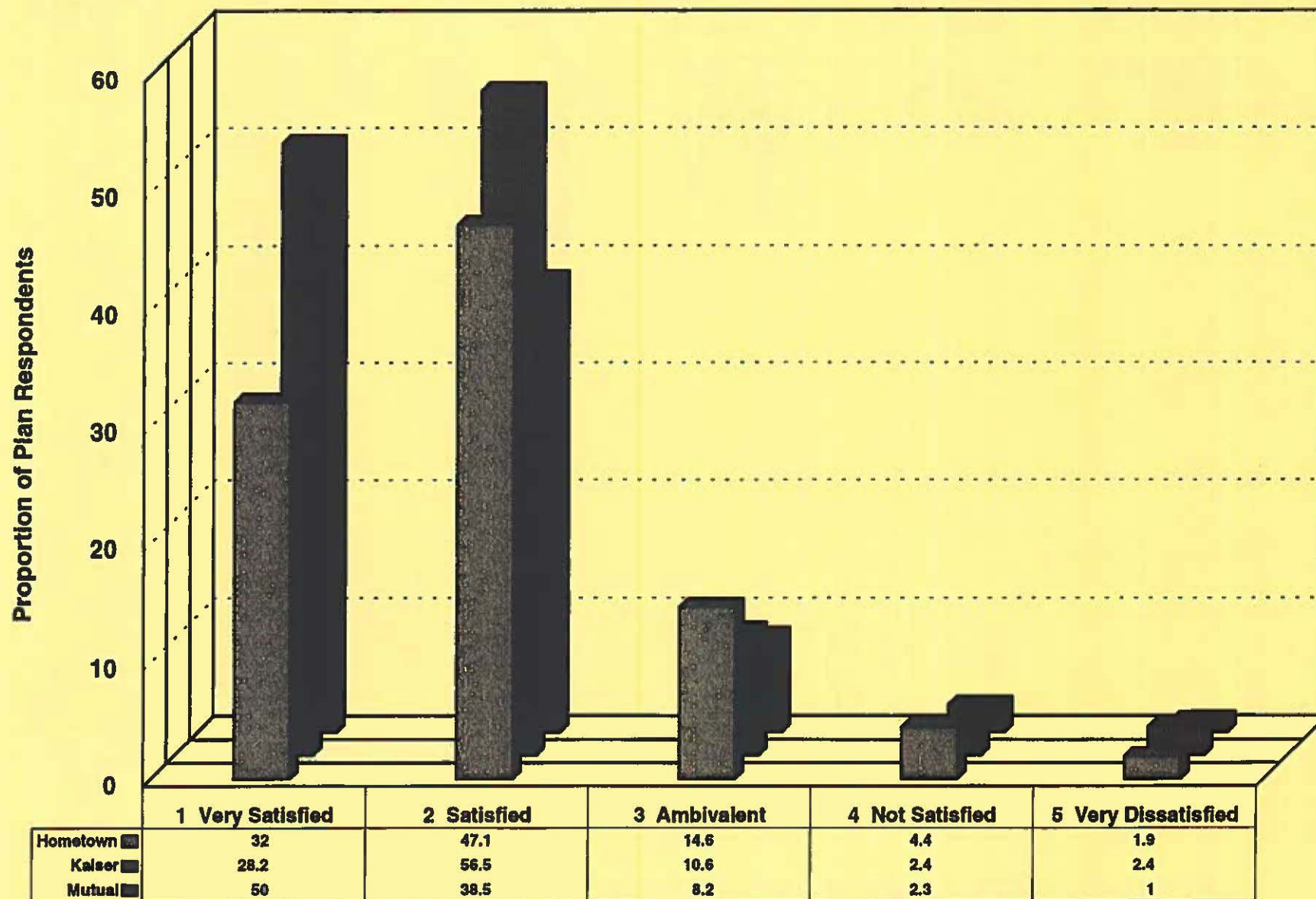
Coverage Satisfaction by Plan Type



Quality of Care Satisfaction by Plan Type

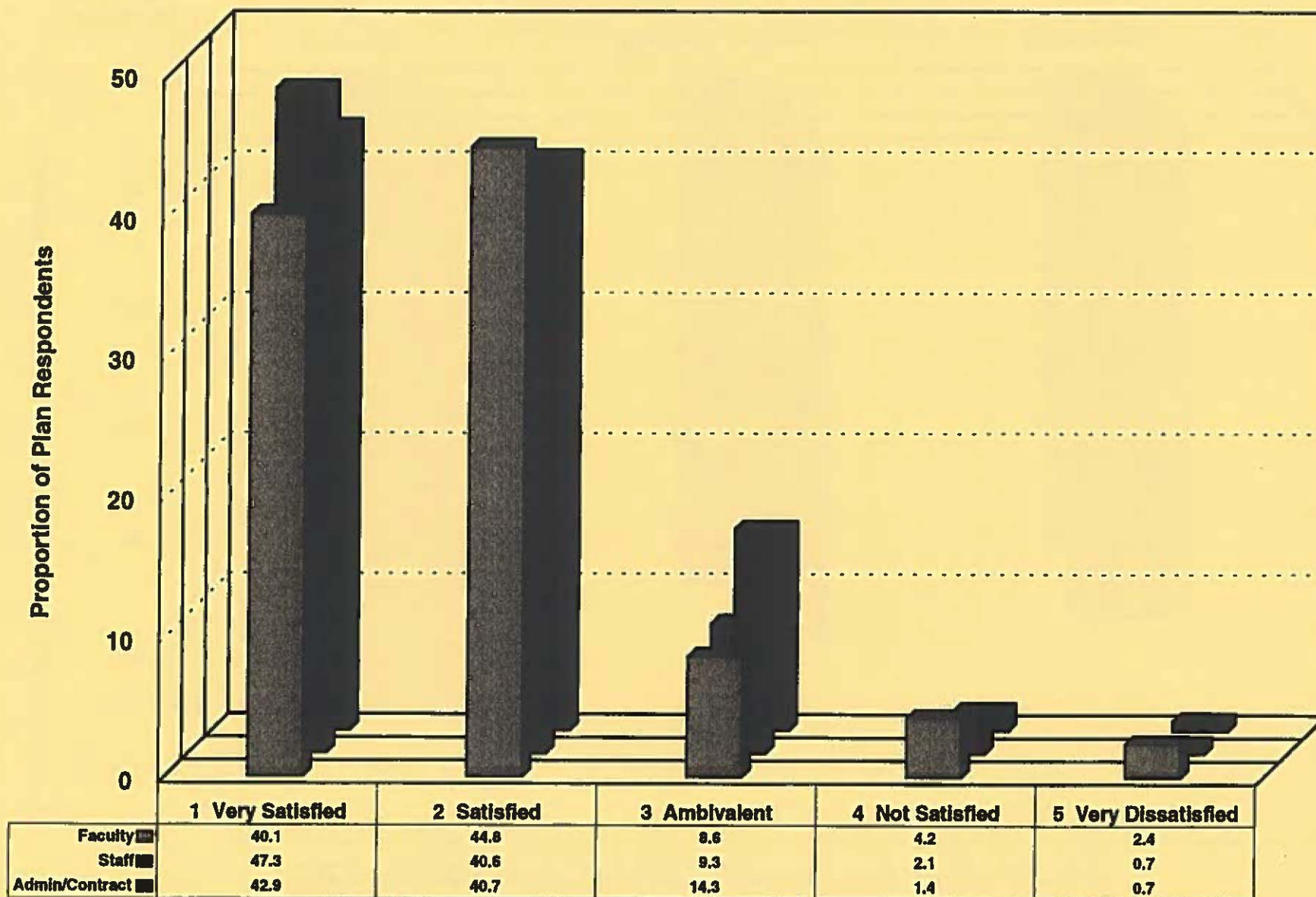


Overall Satisfaction by Plan Type



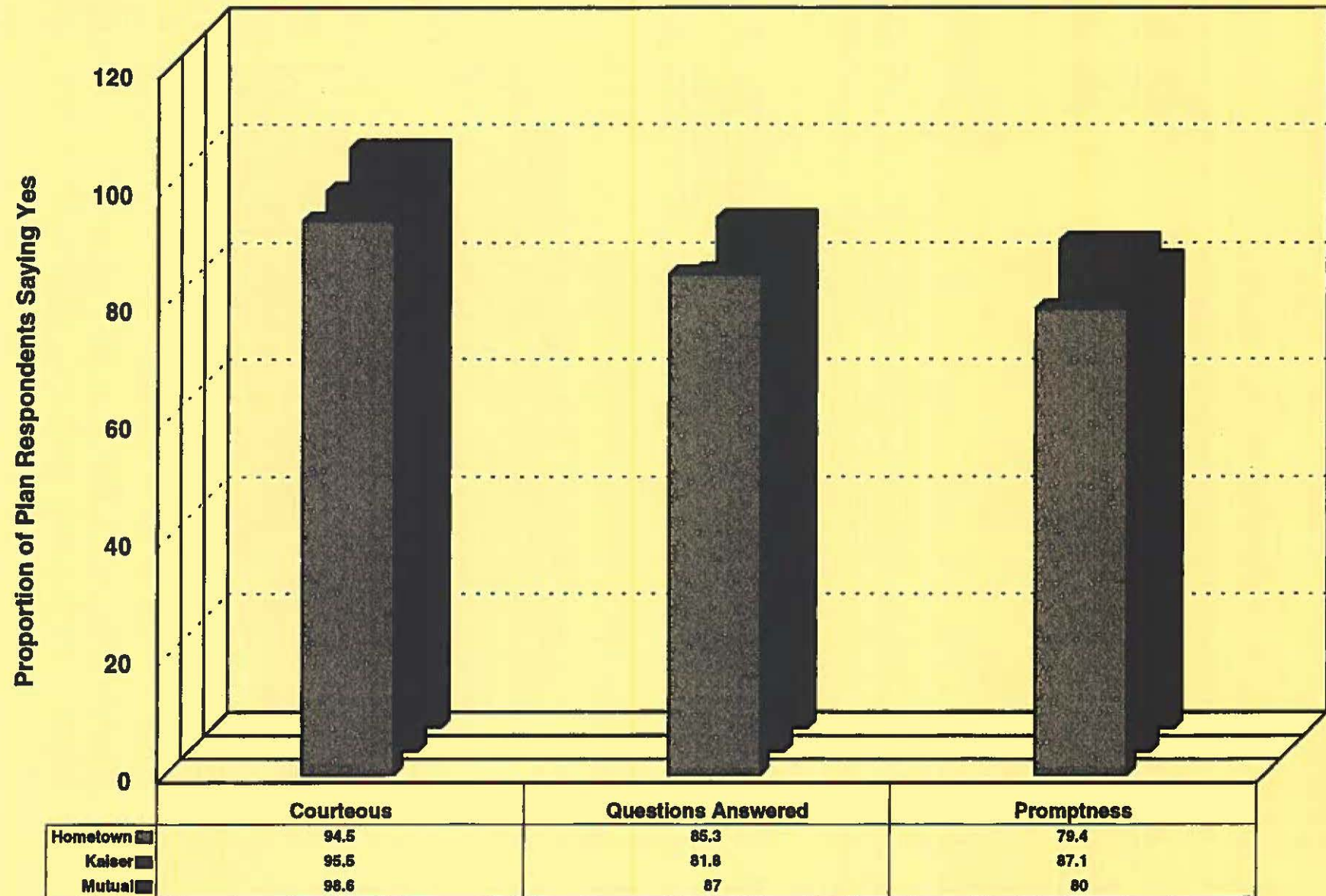
1999 University Well Being Committee Health Care Coverage Survey

Overall Satisfaction by EmployeeType



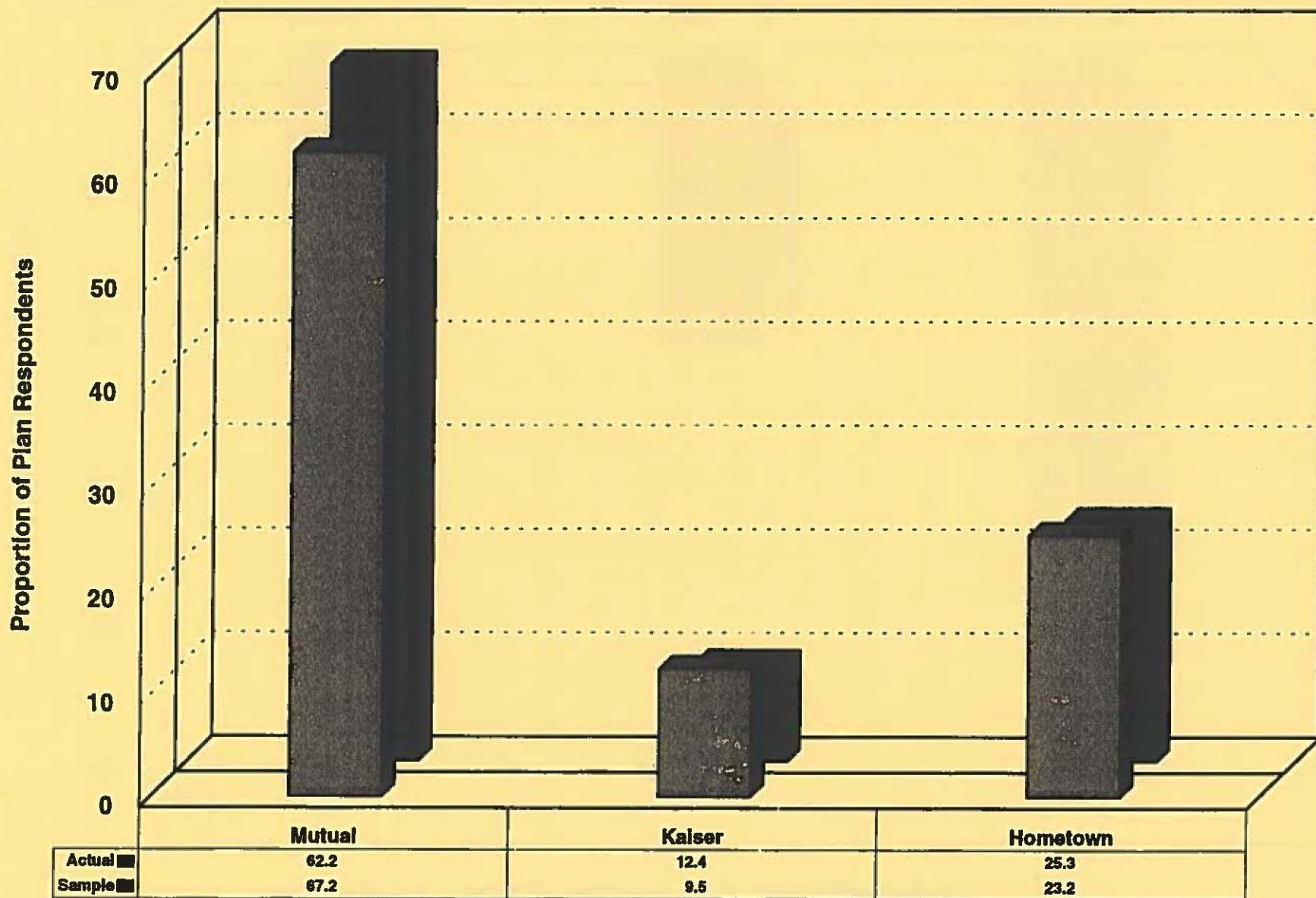
1999 University Well Being Committee Health Care Coverage Survey

Responsiveness of Customer Service Units (Employees with Direct Contact with Plan Units)

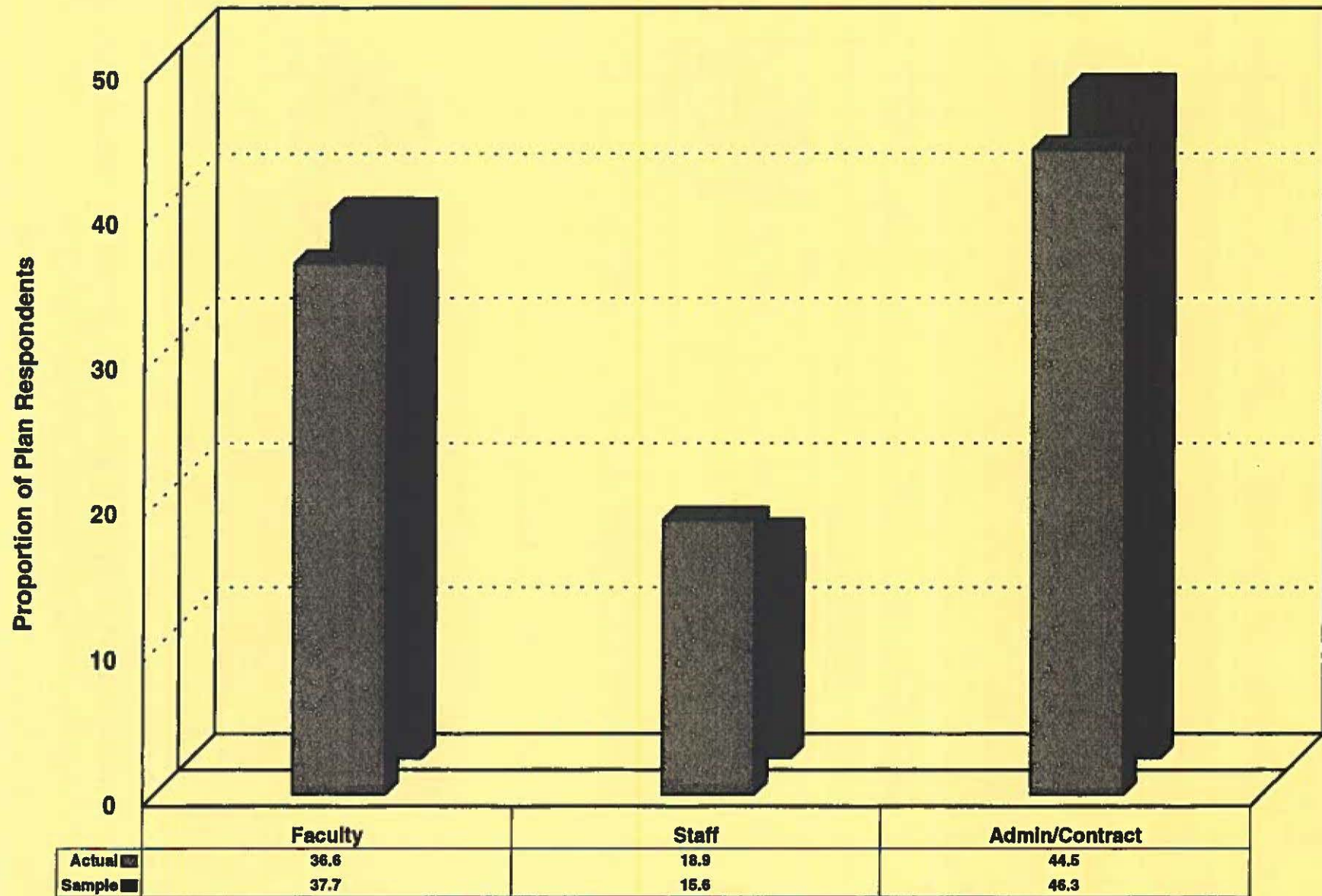


1999 University Well Being Committee Health Care Coverage Survey

Sample Response by Plan Type



Sample Response by Employee Type



1999 University Well Being Committee Health Care Coverage Survey

Report of the Academic Policies and Calendar Committee

1 April 1999

APCC met on March 10. A revised draft of proposed changes to the Faculty Manual (the section on "Curricular Changes") was discussed and further revised. We will bring that recommendation to the Senate for consideration at the May meeting.

We also discussed and approved the following motion for a change of policy with regard to bypassed credit for students pursuing a minor. The policy is stated in the 1998-99 Undergraduate Bulletin (page 154), under "Minor Areas of Study," in the section on "Requirements" (the sixth rule listed):

"Courses for a minor may not be taken credit/non-credit. All credits must be earned (bypassed credit may not be used)."

The idea that this rule should be changed originated in Buchtel College Council; the rationale forwarded to APCC suggests that students pursuing a minor should be able to use the same number of bypassed credits as are allowed to students pursuing a major. APCC therefore recommends that the wording of the Undergraduate Bulletin should be changed to the following:

"Courses for a minor may not be taken credit/non-credit. A MAXIMUM OF 6 BYPASSED CREDITS MAY BE USED, BUT ALL OTHER CREDITS MUST BE EARNED."

**Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost**

Akron, OH 44325-4703

(330) 972-7593 Office

(330) 972-8699 Fax

Date : April 1, 1999

To : Faculty senate

From: Dr. Jean Blosser, Interim Associate Provost

Re : Curriculum Proposals

The proposals on the attached list have matured without objection and have been approved by the Provost. Unless Faculty Senate acts otherwise at its meeting April 1, 1999 these proposals become record.

Proposal Number	Proposal Type	Proposal Title
Business		
BA-99-07	Program Change	Finance ; Addition of course in Elective list
BA-99-08	Program Change	Business Major; Credit hours increase to 35
BA-99-09	New Program	MBA (Management of Technology Concentration)
BA-99-10	Program Change	Graduate Certificate in Management of Technology
BA-99-14	New Program	CBA Core Finance and Business law courses
BA-99-43	Program Change	Change in Graduate Bulletin for MBA
Education		
ED-99-01	Program Change	B. S. Technical Education (Courses added, deleted etc.)
ED-99-02	Program Change	M.S. Technical Education (same as ED-99-01)
ED-99-04	Program Change	Deletion of program "Administrative Specialist: Business Mgmt"
ED-99-05	Program Change	Deletion of program "Administrative Specialist: Special Education"
ED-99-06	Program Change	Undergraduate Certificate in Technical and Skills Training
ED-99-07	Program Change	Graduate Certificate in Technical and Skills Training
ED-99-08b	Program Change	Sport Science/Coaching Master's Option
ED-99-10	Program Change	Elementary Education: Early Childhood & Middle Level Education
ED-99-11	Program Change	Special Education
ED-99-12	Program Change	Adapt. Physical Education
ED-99-13	Program Change	Athletic Training Sports Medicine
ED-99-18	Program Change	Special Education Master's Degree (5610)
ED-99-19	Program Change	Middle Level Education (5500)
Engineering		
EN-99-22	Program Change	Addition of Gr. Elective course; Electrical Engineering
Fine and Applied Arts		
FAA-99-21	Program Change	Theatre Arts (Graduate)

Business

BA-99-11	BA-99-22	BA-99-29	BA-99-36
BA-99-15	BA-99-23	BA-99-30	BA-99-37
BA-99-16	BA-99-24	BA-99-31	BA-99-38
BA-99-17	BA-99-25	BA-99-32	BA-99-39
BA-99-18	BA-99-26	BA-99-33	BA-99-40
BA-99-19	BA-99-27	BA-99-34	BA-99-41
BA-99-20	BA-99-28	BA-99-35	BA-99-42

Education

ED-99-08a	ED-99-09
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Engineering

EN-99-05	EN-99-09	EN-99-11
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Fine and Applied Arts

FAA-99-04	FAA-99-21
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APPENDIX E**REPORT OF CAMPUS FACILITIES PLANNING COMMITTEE TO FACULTY SENATE, APRIL 1st, 1999**

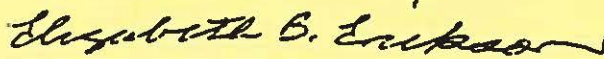
Since the last Senate meeting CFPC met on March 11th, 1999. At that meeting the Committee accepted three changes in space utilization to be reported for action by the Faculty Senate:-

1. that Room 22 in the Olsen Building be re-allocated to Polymer Engineering as a storage room, with concurrent reallocation of Polymer Science storage in the Lincoln building to the Police Department.
2. that 20,000 sq. ft. of unassigned space on the third floor of the Polsky building be allocated as temporary space for the offices of the Department of Psychology. The Department will move from Simmonds Hall which is scheduled for demolition.
3. That 4,000 sq. ft. of unassigned space on the Fifth floor of the Polsky building be allocated to the newly created Center for Social and Health Policy, which will be moved temporarily to Carroll 55.

The CFPC also obtained some initial information on the Strategic Planning Initiative from ex-officio members of the Committee. Members of the Committee expressed their support of this initiative which they had for long seen as vital to any long-term facilities plan. They also indicated they were eager to be involved effectively in this planning.

The Committee received an update on the pre-planning for the potential Recreation Center. The planning firm was to meet with the Recreation Center Planning Committee on March 19th to visit the Wellness Center at Montrose. Further planning would continue for a center to be built on the current Spicer building site. In discussion members of the Committee stressed their preference for a limited Wellness Center rather than a large Recreation Center.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth Erickson, Chair

APPENDIX F

DATE: March 30, 1999

TO: Faculty Senate, Mrs. Barbara Heinzerling, Chair

FROM: General Education Advisory Committee (GEAC), Pamela Hollinger, Chair

SUBJECT: Interim report of our activities

On 7 May 1998 we reported to you our plan for assessing the *General Education Program* which we submitted to the NCA in the fall of 1997. At that time, we reported to you that we had completed the first four phases of the plan, which are as follows—

1. Solicitation of materials
2. Coordinating our assessment with the University Assessment team and the Student Assessment Task Force
3. Interviews with Deans whose colleges house General Education courses
4. Interviews with Department Chairs whose colleges house General Education courses

Over the course of the 1998-1999 academic year we hope to complete the final two phases.

5. Interviews with Course/Program Directors/Coordinators whose colleges teach General Education courses
6. Interviews with student focus groups

During the fall semester, we met every Thursday for nearly three hours with those faculty and administrators most directly involved with the teaching of the courses which comprise the *General Education Program*. We discussed the nine goals of the *General Education Program*, the reading and writing components of the curriculum, how General Education dollars were spent, and any further services GEAC could provide them to facilitate the teaching of the courses in the *General Education Program*.

Throughout the spring semester, we have met every other week to discuss teaching strategies, and we are deeply involved with the work of the Student Assessment Task Force (especially their writing portfolio project) and the effort of the University to obtain Carnegie Teaching Academy status.

Beginning in the first week of April, we will undertake the final phase of our assessment plan. We will conduct focus group sessions with seniors drawn from the following organizations: Associated Student Government, Panhellenic Council, Residence Hall Board, University Program Board, and the Office of Student Development.

After we analyze all of the information we have gathered, we will submit any recommendations to you for your approval—probably during the fall semester 1999.

APPENDIX G

Spring, 1999
PROPOSED

**Resolution for Change in University of Akron
Faculty Senate By-Laws**

WHEREAS the University has made a commitment to reach Carnegie Research Level II status and,
WHEREAS the Faculty Senate of the University of Akron has a substantial interest in participating in achieving this goal and,
WHEREAS there is no current mechanism within the University of Akron Faculty Senate By-Laws to advance this interest,

IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT,

The BYLAWS of the Faculty Senate be amended to define the Duties of the Research Committee (Faculty Projects) as Follows:

The Committee Name to become, Faculty Research Committee.

The description of its function to read:

New provision 1.

1. The committee shall advise the Faculty Senate on all University activities relating to funded (both internal and external) research activities.

Current by-law provisions 1 to 3 that define the activities of the Research Committee (Faculty Projects) in regard to internal faculty research grants become provisions 2-4,

Rationale: The growing importance of research activities at the University of Akron clearly suggests that the Senate play a more active role in expressing the wishes of the faculty regarding University support for such activities. No such mechanism currently exists. The Research Committee (Faculty Projects) is currently limited to administering the internal Faculty Research Grant program. This limitation precludes greater participation of this committee in the larger University research enterprise. The purpose of this proposed change in the Senate By-Laws is to provide the Senate with a formal means of participation.

As a result of this by-law change it is anticipated that at least one member of the committee would automatically become one of the two senators appointed by the executive committee to the University Research Council and that this participation would provide a mechanism for the committee to review proposals from that body and to transmit those proposals to the Senate.

The proposed by-law change also permits the Senate to request that the research committee work with the ex-officio V.P. for Research in developing both institutional plans and a budget for research activities on campus. The change in the by-laws makes the definition of the Faculty Research Committee similar to other Senate committees in that the scope of responsibilities is defined in the by-laws but not the specific operational process.