Committees (A3-B) contents

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Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean (A3)
The position of Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs did not exist early on. Rodney Briggs upon the founding of UMM was the campus’ chief executive officer, and he also performed the functions of the academic dean. According to the catalog for the 1961-62 year there was an Administrative Committee in place, and the Committee members, it would seem, collectively performed roles later formally assigned to the Dean. When Briggs resigned in 1969 John Q. Imholte assumed the position of "Academic Dean and Acting Provost." Two years later Gordon Bopp was named "Academic Dean." Bopp remained in that role until the 1979-81 academic year at which time Elizabeth (Bettina) Blake was named to replace Bopp. Blake resigned in 1995 and was replaced by Samuel Schuman. Meanwhile, the title changed in the 1987-1989 academic year, and the office was renamed "Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and Dean." When Schuman became acting Chancellor in 1998 he appointed a series of so-called "Baby Deans" to administer the functions of that office. John Schwaller was then named Dean in 2002, and he was succeeded by Judith Kuechle on an interim basis in 2006 and Roland Guyotte in 2007. Cheryl Contant followed Guyotte in 2008.

Committees (A3-B)
Materials from this record series involve committees, organizations and task forces from a variety of different levels. Some files are for all-university committees, some are for national organizations, and the majority have to do with campus governance and serve to document the campus response to significant issues during its formative years. The majority of the records are from Bettina (Elizabeth) Blake’s tenure as Academic Dean. Materials include agendas, brochures, correspondence, memoranda, minutes, newsletters, notes, pamphlets, questionnaires and reports.

Of special interest: the file from 1979-80 entitled “Accessibility for the Handicapped Committee” documenting an early attempt to study accessibility on campus for persons with disabilities; the two files from the “Agricultural Action Task Force, 1985-89, a local group representing the extension service, UMM and local farm leaders and businessmen addressing the state and status of the area’s farm economy; the copy of Dean Bettina (Elizabeth) Blake’s talk, “The Institutional Budget: Vision, Planning and Reality,” given at the Bemidji regional conference for the American Council on Education National Identification Program for the Advancement of Women in Higher Education Administration, 1981 (file labeled ACE—Bemidji Talk, April 1981); the Alumni Association file from 1983-86 that documents the naming of Truman O. Driggs as the first recipient of UMM’s Outstanding Faculty Award; the “Campus Resources and Planning Committee” materials for various years and especially the records from 1985-86 involving the New Directions Task Force and General Education Requirements (GER), the planning documents from 1988-89, the report entitled “Maturing: Increasing Public Recognition and Academic Selectivity in a Time of Decreasing Resources” from 1991; the files from the “Energy Emergency Committee” from 1978-80 and documenting the campus’s response to the energy crisis; the materials from “Freshman Seminars,” 1980-83 and from the “Freshman Year experience Committee” for various years; the materials related to Project PROSPER from the “General Education Committee” files, 1987- 90; “Planning Committee” records from 1970-71 and especially those which document campus-wide discussions about growth (to the 4000 student mark), the development of graduate programs, and the construction of a cluster
campus; the various other “PROSPER” subcommittees from 1987-89 and especially the records from the “ProsPer Assessment Committee” from 1992-93.


Container List

Box 1
Accessibility for the Handicapped Committee, 1979-80
Administrative Committee, 1967-68, 76-82, 87-89, 91
Choosing an Administrator, Idaho State, 1975
Ad Hoc Committee on Teaching Evaluation, 1975-76
Ad Hoc Microcomputer Guidelines and Policies Committee
Advising and Counseling Committee, 1967-68
Agriculture Action Task Force, 1987-88
All-University Animal Control Committee, 1971-73
All-University Council on Environmental Quality, 1972-74
All-University Senate, 1974-75, 77-78
Alumni Association UMM, 1983-1989, 92-93
American Council on Education (ACE) National Identification Project, 1980-84
ACE Bemidji Talk, April 1981
Alumni Association UMM, 1983-1986
AODAP Review Committee, 1977-78
AODAP Funding Requests, 1978-81
AODAP Steering Committee Meeting, June 1977
Athletic Committee, 1988-89

Box 2
Board of Regents Meeting, 1977-78, 80, 82
Campus Assembly, 1972-84, 87-91
Campus Resources & Planning Committee, 1983-84

Box 3
Campus Resources & Planning Committee, 1985-86, 87-91
Chairperson (Spring) Review Committee, 1975
Committee Assignments List, 1973-75
Assignments List for Committees, 1976-77, 80-83
College Admissions, 89-90
Consultative Committee, 1976-77
Continuing Education & Regional Programs Committee, 1988-89
Council of Academic Officers, 1976-77
Council of Academic Officers Meeting, 1980-83
Council of Undergraduate Deans, 1988-92

**Box 4**
Council on Liberal Education, 1966-7
Curriculum Committee, 1969-81, 1983-84, 85-86, 87-88 89-91

**Box 5**
Curriculum Committee Agenda Items, 1979-80
Curriculum Committee Miscellaneous Materials, 1980-81, 83-84, 85-86, 87-88, 89-90
Curriculum Committee Minutes, 1969-72
Curriculum Committee Subcommittee on FLR, 1979-80
Curriculum Committee Subcommittee on GER Survey, 1979-80
D.I.E.P. Steering Committee, 1975-78
Drug Implementation Program Committee, 1974-75
Drug Information & Education Advisory Committee, 1973-74
Energy Emergency Committee, 1977-80
Equal Employment Opportunity For Women Committee, nd
Executive Committee Minutes, 1987-88, 88-89
Committee on Facilitating the Scholarly Activities of Faculty, 1981-84
Faculty Grants Committee, 1986-89
Faculty Gatherings, 1980-81
Faculty Consultative Committee, 1981-83, 88-92
Faculty Development Advisory Committee, 1977-78, 83, 87-88

**Box 6**
Faculty Development Committee, 1987-88, 88-89
Committee to Formulate Policies-Faculty, 1978
Fall Course Committee, n.d.
SWWC Freshman Composition Conference, 1981
Freshman Seminar, 1980-84
Freshman Year Experience Committee, 1979-89
Functions and Awards Committee, 1979-83, 85, 87-88
Health Care Committee, 1976-78
Health/Fitness Subcommittee
Hill Visiting Professor Program Advisory Committee, 1976-84
Honors Course Committee, 1981-83
Inquiry Planning Committee, 1987-89
International Programs Committee, 1982-83, 86-89, 92

**Box 7**
Library Relations Sub-Committee, 1967-68
Minority Experience Committee, 1981-85, 87-91
Pass-No Credit Ad Hoc Committee, 1967-68
Presidential Advisory Search Committee, 1988
Microcomputer Guidelines and Policies Committee (Ad Hoc)
Morris Campus Planning Committee, 1970-71, 74-83
Native American Board, 1981-83
New Faculty Orientation Committee, 1982-84
OIP Committee, 1983
Option II Program Committee, 1971-73
Priorities & Evaluation Committee, 1975-76
PROSPER, 1987-89
Recruitment and Retention Committee, 1980-82
Research Advisory Committee, 1970-71
Scholarships (Merit) Ad Hoc Committee, 1969-70

Box 8
Scholastic Committee, 1976-85, 87-89
Seminar Honors Committee, 1967-68
Seminar Honors Minutes, 1967-68
Seminar & Independent Study Committee, 1975-83
Semester Committee, 86-87, 88-89
Senate Committee on Education Policy, 1979-83
Senate Consultative Committee, 1975-76
Steering Committee on Spring Rites, 1980-81
Student Recruitment Task Force, 1984-85
Student Services Committee, 1983, 85-86, 87-88
Task Force on Higher Education and the Economy of the State, 1983
Task Force on the Student Experience, 1983-84

Box 9
Teacher Education Committee, 1983-84, 85-86, 87-88
Teaching Evaluation and Improvement Committee, 1976-78, 82-89
UMM--AAUP, 1981-83
UMM--Reallocation-Brown Committee Report, 1980-82
University Senate, 1978-84
University Without Walls--Individualized Education Project, 1976-1978
UWW/UMM Coordinating Committee, 1973-75
UWW Evaluation Committee, 1977-78
UWW Project Advisory Committee, 1977-78
Word Processing Selection Committee, 1981

Box 10
Bulletin Preparation Material 1984-87
Prosper NEB 1987-89
Honors Committee 1988-89
Deans Convocation 1990
CC Committee on the Major 1991
Gen. Ed. Committee 1992-93
ProsPer Assessment Committee F92 1992-93
Executive Committee Memos 1992
Gen. Ed. Committee
  1994-95
  1995-96
1996-97
Transition Course Catalog S98 1999-2001

**Box 11**

**Box 12**
CETF 1993-1997
Common Course task Force
Curriculum Committee, 1983-84
McDonald Report
Summary of Student Opinion of Teaching – Winter 1997-Spring 2002
Student Evaluation of Teaching – Winter 1999