

## BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DRAKE UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC CHARTER

The Academic Charter of Drake University was released January 23, 1990 by Provost Richard Hersh. The Academic Charter is ranked as one of the governance documents of Drake University. A brief history of its evolution follows.

In 1987 Drake University adopted a new set of Bylaws which included the establishment of a Board of Governors and a Board of Trustees. The new Bylaws excluded any mention of faculty rights, tenure, etc. which had appeared in the 1967 Bylaws and subsequent revisions. Instead, it was stated that there should be a new governance document with the full force of the Bylaws in which the omitted Articles and other relevant material would appear. What evolved was the Academic Charter.

Also in 1987 the University Senate had been replaced by a Faculty Senate and a Student Senate. It was the Faculty Senate then in its first year and its Vice Chair, (later retitled Senate President), C. Walter Clark who were presented in January 1988 with a draft of a document called the Academic Charter and Faculty Manual. It contained the articles deleted from the old Bylaws pertaining to faculty and a partial rewriting of the Faculty Manual which had not been revised since 1977. There had been ad hoc committees which had reviewed the Faculty Manual in 1986 and 1989, but their work had never been completed. However, this draft utilized the preliminary work of the 1989 committee and was included in the document which came before the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate.

The Executive Committee quickly determined that it could not forward this document to the Faculty Senate for action without extensive review. An Ad Hoc Committee comprised of Lewis Hainlin, Chair; Jack Yeager and Kaye Stoppel was appointed to examine the document and to make recommendations. This Ad Hoc Committee first came back with a recommendation that the document be divided into two parts: an Academic Charter and a Faculty Manual with the Academic Charter to be handled first. Their rationale was that the two documents together were long and unwieldy. More importantly, if the Academic Charter were to be one of the governance documents of Drake University, it would need frequent revision if it contained manual-type policies and procedures which change frequently.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation, and the Ad Hoc Committee proceeded to limit the Academic Charter to those articles and sections which dealt with faculty rights. A preliminary draft received the Executive Committee's approval. Reactions from President Ferrari, AAUP and other groups were also solicited.

By the time the Ad Hoc Committee's work was completed, a different academic year and a different Faculty Senate was in place. The draft was presented to Senate President Hugh Winebrenner and the Executive Committee in January 1989.

The Executive Committee held open hearings and invited responses from individuals and groups. At the April 19, 1989 meeting of the Faculty Senate the proposed Academic Charter was approved and was ready to be forwarded to the Board of Governors. 2

The document was first examined by the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Governors. Although that Committee unanimously recommended the Academic Charter for approval at the January 1990 Board of Governors meeting, it made two suggestions for changes. These were shared with the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate by then in its third year with Kaye Stoppel as President. The Executive Committee acting as a rules committee drafted the language in the relevant sections to follow the recommendations of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Governors. These revisions were presented to the Faculty Senate at its Dec. 6, 1989 meeting and were approved. Subsequently approved by the Board of Governors at its January 1990 meeting, the Academic Charter was distributed to the faculty that same month.

Following the initial Faculty Senate action on the Academic Charter in April 1989, the Ad Hoc Committee turned its attention to the Faculty Manual. That work is described separately.

Further modifications in the Academic Charter involving the Faculty Senate occurred in 1992. These were prompted by a letter in December 1991 to President Ferrari from Drake Chapter AAUP President, Kaye Stoppel, suggesting that revisions in the new 1990 edition of AAUP Policy Documents and Reports be considered for incorporation in the next printing of the Academic Charter. President Ferrari recommended that Robert Hariman, Faculty Senate President be consulted.

This resulted in the appointment of an Ad Hoc Committee comprised of Kaye Stoppel, chair; John Lytle and Michael Myrzewski. The work of the Ad Hoc Committee was done in two areas. First the AAUP documents appended to the Academic Charter were examined against the 1990 AAUP Redbook. Most of the changes found were intended to eliminate gender-specific references or to substitute current copy for out-of-date copy. The next step was to examine all the documents added or revised in the 1990 Redbook and to determine if any would be relevant.

The Ad Hoc Committee's report was submitted to Robert Hariman February 17 and appeared on the agenda of the March 11 Faculty Senate meeting. The recommendations were approved and were to be presented to the Board of Governors at its July 1992 meeting.

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