Item # 113- Report of the Subcommittee Considering the Special Needs and Review Procedures for Interdisciplinary and Interdivisional Programs-

Approved motion reads:

Our investigation suggests that many of the endemic problems of these programs might be alleviated if there were some clear signal of the university’s commitment to these programs as an important part of its educational mission. One possible way to accomplish this would be to create a pattern of administrative oversight which recognizes the special problems and needs of these programs, by locating accountability at the level of the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

In addition to the standard indices of quality and support, special attention should be paid in reviewing interdisciplinary and/or interdivisional programs to:

1. Administrative structure and support, including location of the program, governance, and potential for combining with other programs;
2. The procedure by which budgets for such programs are built and justified;
3. The level of cooperation by participating departments, including availability and scheduling of relevant courses, provisions for faculty recruitment and/or replacement, and assignment of and rewards for professional activities.

The above should be considered in the context of normal review procedures, while recognizing the unique contribution that interdisciplinary/interdivisional programs make to the total educational mission of the university.