In the best interests of the University, the Graduate Council urgently petitions the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate to seek a private meeting with the Chancellor and to convey to him the peril in which the academic integrity of the University has been placed by administrative intervention in graduate admissions in a case that has every appearance of granting special privileges and to seek with the Chancellor some resolution of the current problem.

Grace F. Ambroski  
Professor of Veterinary Microbiology & Veterinary Science

David J. Boethel  
Professor of Entomology

John D. Dennis  
Professor of Theatre

Terry G. Geske  
Professor of Education

Daniel M. Fogel  
Professor of English

Sam R. Hilliard (Chair)  
Alumni Professor of Geography and Anthropology

John M. Larkin (on leave)  
Professor of Microbiology

Clement F. Sirmans, Jr.  
Professor of Finance; Louisiana Real Estate Commission Endowed Chair of Real Estate

Mehmet T. Tunay  
Professor of Civil Engineering
From: The Ad Hoc Subcommittee on the Academic Decision Process
William A. Porter, Chairman
Grace F. Amborski
Alan D. Fletcher
Ronald J. W. Henry
Robert F. O'Connell

To: The Faculty Senate, Louisiana State University

Our committee has operated under the following charges found in resolution 88-4:

"To investigate recent relevant decisions, and to make recommendations to the Senate as to appropriate actions to be taken, or policies to be clarified or formulated."

In the course of our investigation, the Ad Hoc Committee interviewed the following individuals:

Gregory Blimling, Dean of Students
William Cooper, Dean, The Graduate School
Carolyn Hargrave, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost
Glen Hembry, Associate Dean, The Graduate School
James Henry, Dean, The College of Business Administration
David Hull, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Lamar Jones, Chairman, The Policy Committee, The College of Business Administration
Carroll McGuhee, Dean, Academic Services
Sean McGlynn, Vice Chancellor for Research
James Reddoch, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Affairs
James Wharton, Chancellor
William Williams, Associate Dean, The College of Business Administration
Daniel Yannitelli, Chairman, Admissions Standards and Honors Committee

In addition, the committee received several dozen documents, memos, and other correspondence.
General Considerations

1. The Committee reaffirms the right and the responsibility of the faculty to make academic policy decisions concerning admission, re-admission, and graduation requirements.

2. It is appropriate for the Chancellor or any faculty member to call attention to situations where improper procedures for academic policy development may have occurred. However, it is the prerogative of the faculty to pass judgment on such cases and to develop solutions if such are judged necessary.

3. The Committee is concerned with the manner in which changes pertaining to academic issues are made in official publications of the University, including Catalog statements and The Code of Student Conduct. Any major changes should have the approval of the faculty either through the Faculty Council, the Faculty Senate, the Graduate Faculty, the Graduate Council or committees set up by either of these bodies.

4. The Committee recognizes that the Chancellor's office is in contact with members of the political community. Indeed, to further the interests of the University, a continuing dialogue over budget, programs, and support services is necessary. It is the Chancellor's responsibility, however, to shield the academic community from political influence that would jeopardize fair and uniform treatment of all citizens of the state.

5. The University's purpose is served by careful consideration of input from all citizens of the state. However, the granting of special treatment to a student or group of students is contrary to the basic tenets of state-supported institutions.
I. The Graduate Student Readmission Case

On September 16, 1988, Chancellor Wharton acted contrary to the judgment of the faculty by directing the readmission of a student who was found guilty of plagiarism under the Code of Student Conduct.

Our findings include the following:

(1) We find that the Dean of Students and the Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs acted with complete propriety in the handling of this case. In particular, the student was properly advised (a) of the multiple sanctions, (b) of the Dean's recommendation for the start date of the sanctions, (c) that upon completion of the period of separation, reapplication for admission would be necessary, and (d) that readmission was not guaranteed.

(2) We find that the faculty members and administrators of the College of Business Administration, and the administrators of the Graduate School, also acted with complete propriety in the handling of this case. Students reentering the University following separation under the Code of Student Conduct require an admission decision by the faculty of the unit in question. In this case, admission was denied by the Faculty of the College of Business Administration.
II. Admission and Graduation of Student Athletes

On August 8, 1988, Chancellor Wharton requested the Dean of Academic Services to admit without deficiencies student athletes who are full qualifiers under NCAA rules.

Exceptions to the required 17 1/2 high school units are discussed on pgs. 30 and 31 of the LSU General Catalog. In particular, the catalog states that when exceptions are made for students to whom no instruction has been available with respect to either physics or a foreign language, such courses will be included in the requirements for graduation at LSU. However, in practice, such requirements are not applied to student athletes. This is at variance with the stated position of the Admissions Standards and Honors Committee contained in its February 3, 1988 Minutes:

"The committee unanimously reaffirmed its position supporting the policy that adds to LSU graduation requirements whatever deficiencies in admission requirements may have been waived. This is understood to apply whether admission was granted via a prescribed alternate route, NCAA rule 5-1-1 (1), or any other exception provision."
Structural Recommendations

1. We recommend that the faculty reject changes in the LSU Handbook which would require inclusion of supplemental unit standards. Such inclusions would serve to reduce the conciseness of this handbook on due process. We recommend also that the responsibility to promulgate such standards continue to reside with the unit in question.

2. We recommend that the Graduate Council continue to exercise de facto representation of the faculty in graduate affairs. In particular, we conclude that a decision by the Graduate Council as to which issues require a Graduate Faculty vote remains the most effective way of facilitating Graduate Policy.

3. The Committee recommends that a system of checks and balances be set up to monitor exceptions to admission, readmission, and graduation requirements that are common to all undergraduate students or to all graduate students. Such exceptions would include the case of all applicants who would enter LSU under NCAA bylaw 5-1-j (1) or other nonstandard provisions. (We include the Graduate School but exclude particular requirements of other Colleges or Schools. Any administrative recommendations for exceptions should be referred to a committee of the Faculty Senate (herein referred to as the Exceptions Committee*)). The recommendations will be considered approved if this committee concurs. Otherwise, the case will be forwarded to the LSU System, where it will be reviewed concurrently by the President and by the Executive Graduate Council. Agreement between these two entities will represent the final decision. Otherwise, the case will be referred to the Board of Supervisors for its disposition.

*The Exceptions Committee could be the ASH committee or a newly formed committee.
Report of Special Committee constituted in accordance with Dr. Jack A. Andonie's letter of December 14, 1988

1. The Committee finds that Chancellor James H. Wharton acted at all times in what he believed to be in the best interest of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College.

2. The Committee finds that Chancellor Wharton's actions were consistent with those duties incumbent upon him as Chancellor and, in his belief and judgment, were not inimical to the academic fabric of the University.

3. The Committee commends Chancellor James H. Wharton for his dedicated service as Chancellor of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College and recommends that an appropriate resolution be adopted conferring upon him the honorary title "Chancellor Emeritus".

4. The Committee feels that the procedure followed by the Faculty Committee requires additional study, and that there is a need for the LSU Board of Supervisors to clarify its position with regard to the formulation, implementation and administration of educational policy, including specifically policies regarding student athletes and transfer students.

5. It is the statutory and constitutional duty of the LSU Board of Supervisors to supervise and manage the affairs of LSU. The faculty and administrators of the University are urged to respect the authority of the Board of Supervisors and to report to the Board in matters of signal concern to the welfare of the University.