TO: President John E. Van de Watering  
FROM: The Faculty Senate  
RE: X I. Formal Resolution (Act of Determination)  
     II. Recommendation (Urging the fitness of)  
     III. Other (Notice, Request, Report, etc.)  
SUBJECT: Academic Evaluation  

Meeting on 3/7/88  

Signed Richard E. Sugg  
Date Sent 3/9/88  
For the Senate

TO: The Faculty Senate  
FROM: President John E. Van de Watering  
RE: I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution  
   a. Accepted. Effective Date  
   b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on  
   c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation  
II., III. a. Received and acknowledged  
   b. Comment:  

DISTRIBUTION: Vice Presidents:  
               (See attached list)  
               Others:  
               Distribution Date: 3/4/88  
               Signed:  
               (President of the College)  
Date Received by the Senate:
Academic Evaluation

WHEREAS self-study (evaluation, assessment) of academic programs is becoming increasingly commonplace nationally, and

WHEREAS the Governor of New York and the State University of New York are putting special emphasis on academic self-evaluation, and

WHEREAS such self-evaluation can greatly help the college to improve its educational services to students, and

WHEREAS a forthcoming Middle States review in 1992 will require much of the information elicited through academic self-evaluation, and

WHEREAS such self-evaluation is a long-term process extending beyond the term of membership in any Faculty Senate committee, therefore be it

RESOLVED that a College-wide ad hoc committee be appointed by President Van de Watering in consultation with the Faculty Senate to develop plans for academic self-evaluation and Middle States review, and be it further

RESOLVED that this ad hoc committee include broad representation of the faculty, with the Faculty Senate represented through a member of the Long-Range Planning Committee, and be it further

RESOLVED that appropriate resources be allocated to this ad hoc committee and its members.

DISCUSSION: Using the College Mission Statement as a basis, the College should evaluate how well it is performing its overall mission to determine which areas need emphasis, which need improvement, etc. Among the areas to be evaluated are the General Education program, particularly communication and quantitative skills. Selected major programs (if not all) should also be evaluated to determine the extent to which they have improved appropriate skills, knowledge, and attitudes among students. Does an acceptable proportion of our students go on for further study, professional employment, and positions of community leadership?

A variety of measurements is available for such analysis, but others may need to be developed or adapted to meet the unique needs of the College and its programs. Individual departments will appropriately be involved in developing their own measurements and instruments to evaluate their programs.

Among the functions of the proposed committee would be recommendations of the particular areas, programs, etc. to be evaluated and instruments or measurements by which to evaluate them. The committee would undoubtedly also work with individual departments in the development of their unique evaluation approaches and the sharing of information.