New York University
Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee

Advisory regarding Advanced Standing
May 12, 2008

In 2005–06 and 2006–07 the UAAC took up the subject of Advanced Placement and other types of advanced-standing credit. A subcommittee convened by Judith Miller presented a preliminary report in spring 2006, which was discussed by the full committee, as was a follow-up report in spring 2007. At the latter meeting Barbara Hall, the Associate Provost for Enrollment Management, provided her important perspective.

The following recommendations grow out of those earlier discussions and have the full support of Barbara Hall:

**Advanced Placement (AP).** The current NYU policy that scores of 4 or 5 on AP tests are acceptable for college credit should be continued. A few other top-flight institutions (e.g., Harvard and Penn) now accept only scores of 5; most others accept scores of 4 as well, and a few (including Stanford and UC Berkeley) even accept a 3 in some fields. At the same time, it is clear that the value and applicability of AP work varies enormously from discipline to discipline. For that reason we recommend that departments review all relevant AP courses, with a particular eye on how many credits should be awarded, whether they are equivalent to a specific departmental course or courses, and how the credits can be used (whether to satisfy a specific major or minor requirement, a general education requirement, or general elective credit only; or to serve as a prerequisite for higher-level courses; etc.). This review should be completed and the results of it shared with the Provost by the end of the 2008–09 academic year.

**International Baccalaureate (IB).** We currently award credit for scores of 5, 6, or 7. Given that a score of 5 represents a rather mediocre performance and that most of our peer and target institutions do not give credit for it, we recommend that NYU grant credit only for scores of 6 or 7. That is the policy of Columbia and Duke, for example; Harvard requires a 7.

**Prematriculation Credit.** This type of credit pertains to college courses that students take while still enrolled in secondary school. The quality of such courses, sometimes known as bridge courses, is highly variable. A few institutions (e.g., Harvard and Columbia) do not award credit for such courses. Many others award credit only if certain conditions are met. We recommend that NYU tighten up its policy regarding credit for college courses taken before graduation from high school by instituting the following conditions: (1) the course was given at an accredited institution; (2) the coursework was not used to meet high school graduation requirements; (3) the coursework is reflected on an official transcript from the institution offering the course, and not reflected on the student’s high school transcript (unless the latter makes it clear that the credit is not counting toward any high school requirements); and (4) the grade earned is at least the minimum required for any transfer credit, currently a C.

We recommend that these changes be implemented and that all-University and relevant school-specific publications (e.g., admissions materials, school bulletins) and websites be changed to reflect these reforms.