Satish Udpa, Dean
College of Engineering
Michigan State University

August 13, 2009

RE: Report of Activities, University Committee on
Academic Policy

Dean Udpa,

As the College’s representative to the University Committee on Academic Policy (UCAP), I am submitting this letter as my report on UCAP’s activities during the 2008-9 academic year.

During the past year a considerable amount of UCAP’s efforts have been involved in dealing with programmatic changes to curriculum and admission policies from programs throughout the University. It is certainly beyond the scope of this report to review all of these changes, but it is worth noting that UCAP approved the linked BS-MS programs for a series of programs in the College of Engineering. These new programs were, presented by Associate Dean Tom Wolff and approved by UCAP at the February 12, 2009 meeting. I think it is important to note that member of UCAP have noted on a number of occasions how well Tom and the materials from Engineering are prepared, and the materials from Engineering are often used as a model for other colleges to follow when presenting curricular and programmatic proposals to UCAP.

In addition to programmatic changes, UCAP also dealt with a number of other broader issues that have potential to impact the College of Engineering, its faculty, and undergraduate and graduate students. These include the following:

Undergraduate Learning Assistants (ULA). The ULA policy developed by UCAP during the 2007-08 academic year was completed and approved through the rest of the Academic Governance system during the past year. It will be important that our departments are aware of this new policy whenever undergraduates are used to assist in instruction and grading.

Academic Integrity. A new policy for dealing with cases of student academic dishonesty has been developed by UCAP and approved through the Academic Governance system. A highlight of this new policy is a system of centralized record keeping that will identify repeat offenders.

Religious Observance Policy. During the 2007-08 UCAP has approved a new policy to clarify the rights and responsibilities of students to make up work
missed in association religious observance. Following some revisions in other Academic Governance committees, UCAP approved an updated version of this policy. The policy is currently being reviewed by the Provost’s Office.

Fall Semester Start Date: UCAP continued to provide input to the Provost’s Office regarding the change the start date of fall semester and the potential impacts such a change might have on the educational mission of the University.

New Chair of UCAP: At the April 30, 2009 meeting, I was elected chair of UCAP for the 2009-10 academic year. In this role, I will also serve on the Executive Committee of Academic Council (ECAC) and in this role will also give the College of Engineering additional visibility on Faculty and Academic Councils.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martin A. Crimp, Professor
Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science