

Petitions Committee
Edgar Shawen, Chair

The task of the Petitions Committee this year has been essentially to process the more than 1000 petitions that have been submitted, along with those that may be submitted through the end of the academic year including summer terms. The committee has been successful in carrying out that task despite the distraction of controversy over its practices and despite the resignation and eventual replacement of the original Chair of the committee.

No statistics on the types of petitions submitted or on the disposition of cases are available, since records of committee action prior to the change of Chairs have not been made available to the current Chair.

In addition to processing the mountain of petitions submitted, the committee has pursued two initiatives intended to reduce its workload and streamline its operations:

- (1) developing a subcommittee system for consideration of departmental substitution petitions and
- (2) encouraging departments to revise and tighten catalogue copy so that fewer substitution petitions will be required.

Under the subcommittee system, standing subcommittees of the full committee can approve substitutions but cannot reject them; any petition not approved by the subcommittee are automatically forwarded for consideration by the full committee.

Departments have been encouraged to bring catalogue requirements up to date to reflect staff changes, discontinuation of courses, etc., so that fewer substitutions will be needed. These initiatives will facilitate the efficient functioning of the Petitions Committee in the future.

The Chair wishes to thank the members of the committee for their untiring and effective service throughout the year.