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In consultation with the cabinet, I have decided to postpone action on these recommendations to permit a continuing review of this critical issue. A host of factors necessitates this delay. Some of the variables under consideration include:

- The Provost's strategic plan proposes a dean of graduate, continuing and external education. Clearly, in today's comprehensive university, these areas offer a potentially significant role for distance education. If this position is funded, we will seek a nationally recognized leader in this area and we should consider his or her input in our reflections on distance education.
- Our strategic plan is still under formulation for presentation later this year to the university community, Board of Regents and legislative leadership. Exercising an array of options to meet our charge from the Board requires creativity along with programmatic and entrepreneurial ventures that are, as yet, not fully solidified.
- Any policy developed in the rapidly changing area of technology must incorporate the highest degree of flexibility and autonomy for departments and schools who have embraced technology-based instruction as an integral part of their individual missions. Therefore, I hope our continuing examination of these position statements and reports would cause us to reconsider the notion that final approval of distance education should be the purview of the University Curriculum Committee. There is considerable exception to this position in favor of the school curriculum committees having direction and control over such courses. The role of the University Curriculum Committee maybe clearest in those areas where all students are affected; e.g. general education courses. However, in both cases, I believe the Provost should be the final approving authority.
- The University has just employed a full-time Web administrator. Half of her time has been dedicated to helping faculty utilize the Web for instructional purposes. Even During development of the draft position statement, distance education itself was making a shift towards more pronounced use of the Web and our policy needs to fully address this methodology.

Excerpted from the President's July 9 1997 memo titled "Forum Recommendations on University Policy"

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