

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL - Tuesday, June 2, 1970

The meeting was convened at 1:00 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room. Present were: Deans Byo, Dykema, Charignon, Miller, Mrs. Joseph Smith, Registrar, and Dr. Edgar.

1. Mrs. Joseph Smith, Registrar, discussed with the deans the deadline date for reporting grades of students who are graduating in the June commencement. It was agreed that Mrs. Smith would prepare a letter to the faculty which she would provide the deans who could distribute it, adding whatever other comments they would like. In the letter the 48-hour deadline would be mentioned, and a final deadline for grades of graduating students would be set at 12:00 Noon Saturday, June 13. Mrs. Smith also agreed to ask the Computer Center to supply two copies of the Senior Class Rosters so that one copy would be available to the deans.
2. Dean Miller initiated a general discussion of problems associated with commencement: the possibility that we should cease trying to hand out actual diplomas at the time of commencement; the need to have more than two commencements a year; the advisability of representation from the Registrar's Office on the Ceremonial Affairs Committee; and the perennial problem of reading all the names of graduating students. Dean Dykema also called attention to the requirement stated on page 47 of the new Catalog that the student is not a candidate for a degree until he has been admitted to the upper division of the University, and to the lack of any machinery to enforce this regulation.
3. The second problem on the Agenda was the change in the grade point average requirement for graduation Cum Laude. The University Senate in session on February 7, 1969 raised the minimum requirement to 3.4. The motion on which the Senate voted did not, however, include an effective date. Questions have been raised by students who entered the University under a catalog in which the minimum requirement was 3.3. The new requirement first appeared in the 1969-70 University Catalog and appears, of course, in the 1970-71 Catalog. Former Vice President Coffield did not apply the new requirement to students graduating in 1969, on the grounds that it had not been sufficiently publicized. On motion by Dean Dykema, seconded by Dean Charignon, it was voted to apply the new Cum Laude requirement for the 1970 graduations.
4. There was a discussion of problems associated with evaluating transcripts with Pass-Fail grades or employing other non-grading systems. After some discussion, it was decided that no real problems had yet presented themselves to us in this regard, and that we would wait until they did so before attempting to take any action.
5. According to present regulations, printed on page 46 of the new catalog, the last 45 quarter hours leading to the degree must be completed at YSU, except for Pre-forestry, Pre-law, and Pre-medical curricula. Any modification of this requirement must be approved by the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dean Swartz had reported petitions by students wanting to take as much as 12 hours, in one case, and 29, in another, elsewhere in completing their Youngstown Degree.

Discussion revealed current practice to be restricted to allowing one course, and possible two, to be taken elsewhere; that is, at most, from 8 to 10 quarter hours. It was agreed that deans would be allowed to approve deviations from the rule accordingly, obviously on justification in each individual case, and that it would be unlikely that the Vice President for Academic Affairs would approve anything higher. The Academic Vice President also was asked to suggest to the Academic Affairs Committee of the Senate that it study the practice in other schools concerning exemption of Pre-law and Pre-medical curricula from such a regulation.

5. Problems were discussed that result from the fact that the summer commencement is scheduled for Wednesday, September 2, which is the same day that final exams end for the Summer Quarter. It was agreed that early examinations for graduating students was the only answer to these problems.
6. There was brief discussion of the desirability of a preliminary evaluation of student records in the Junior year. Mr. Isgro had suggested this procedure, complaining that deferring evaluations until the beginning of the Senior year often resulted in the discovery of credit hours useless for the degree the student is seeking, thus forcing him to take additional hours to graduate. The deans present expressed themselves as feeling that this happened most often because of a change in the career or degree objective of the student and, therefore, was largely unavoidable, that the loss of certain hours creditable to the degree in such cases could not be prevented by the earlier evaluation of the student's record. It was suggested that Mr. Isgro produce concrete evidence of avoidable losses of credits that could be cured by evaluation in the Junior year.

The meeting terminated at 3:00 p.m.

May 25, 1970

Mr. Nicholas S. Kladitis
1000 Hegley Street
Farrell, Pennsylvania 16121

Dear Mr. Kladitis:

As per your request in our recent conference, I have reviewed with care the matter of the change of grade point requirement for minimum graduation with honors. The University Senate in session on February 7, 1969 raised the minimum requirement to 3.4. This first appeared in the 1969-70 University catalog and now appears on page 55 in the 1970-71 catalog.

On the basis of this action it is my interpretation that the 3.4 minimum requirement must be met before an individual can be so recognized at all future commencements.

Sincerely,

William H. Coffield
Vice President for
Academic Affairs

WHC:bjn

FROM C.A. Painter - Chairman, Student Academic Guidance & Registration Committee

SUBJECT Referral by the Academic Deans Council via Dr. James Scriven of request by Student Affairs Committee recommendations regarding advisors' signatures on advisement sheets.

History of Item under discussion

The first contact of the SAGR Committee with this problem was via phone call from Dr. James Scriven to C.A. Painter, Chairman, SAGR Committee, on April 3, 1970. Dr. Scriven noted that discussion was initiated by Student Affairs Committee on Nov. 21, 1969. Dr. Scriven forwarded the suggestion "to delete advisor's signature from all registration materials in the future" made by the Student Affairs Committee.

Dr. Scriven wrote to the Academic Deans Council regarding this recommendation on Dec. 2, 1969, and the Deans Council referred this proposal to the SAGR Committee for its ideas and recommendations.

After initial contacts by phone with each Academic Dean by the Chairman of the SAGR Committee and a request for their written comments, (one response), the two meetings of SAGR Committee on April 8, 1970 and April 29, 1970, were used for discussion and formulation of our recommendations.

Therefore, the Student Academic Guidance and Registration Committee submits the following comments and recommendations to the Academic Deans Council:

1. A recommendation that the suggestion for removal of an advisor's signature from all registration materials and forms is more appropriately a function of the Academic Deans Council.
 - (a) Student representatives on this committee were in total and strong opposition to the deletion of advisor's signature from registration materials.
2. Removal of signature simply to negate forgery is not a valid argument.
3. Students and faculty were agreed that vital face-to-face relationships and advisement would be lost if advisors signatures are deleted.
 - (a) Students in academic difficulty, i.e., Warnings, Probation, Suspension, MUS, be required an advisor's signature.
 - (b) Students in good standing may or may not be required an advisor's signature for registration.
4. Possibilities: Use of a card signed sometime during the quarter to indicate that the student has seen an advisor. To replace the regular or current advisor's sheet. Required of all students.
 - (a) Registrar's office will need some form of verification of student's having been to his school or department, with either a stamp or some other device if signatures are eliminated.

- (a) Each student in all schools should be given a curriculum sheet to follow. In the case of undecided majors, an outline of general university requirements might suffice initially.
- (b) Have one general program for all schools and colleges with sufficient latitude to allow for "card signatures" during each quarter. This suggestion was made in an attempt to further separate "advisement" and "registration" functions.
- (c) Special notices to students of any procedure changes by his department or school.

No final decision was made concerning the problem of advisory signatures. Advisement to remain a function of the several schools. Some standardization desirable on a university-wide basis.

Respectfully submitted,

Clyde A. Painter

C.A. Painter, Chairman
Student Academic Guidance and
Registration Committee

CAP/me1

cc: J. Scriven - Admissions
M.B. Smith - Registrar
D. Byo - Music
K. Dykema - A&S
J. Swartz - Educ
R. Miller - SBA
N. Paraska - T&CC
J. Charignon - Eng.
E. Edgar - Student Affairs