

18 February 1959

Item 1. The initial meeting of this committee was held in Main 406 from 10 to 11 a.m. All members were present: Frank D'Isa of the Raym School of Engineering, Sylvan Einstein of the School of Business Administration, Philip Hahn of the Department of Economics of the College of Arts and Sciences, David Ives of the Division of Language and Literature of the College of Arts and Sciences, and K. W. Dymon, Chairman, of the Department of English of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Item 2. Since there had been so much difficulty in finding a meeting time for even so small a committee as this is, the first item of business was to settle on a time for the next meeting. It was found that all members could meet the following Tuesday. The second meeting will, therefore, be held on February 24 at 11:00 a.m. in Main 406.

Item 3. The Chairman described briefly the background of the formation of the committee. At a meeting of the Northcentral Association in Chicago last fall, President Jones discussed with one of the officers of that association the desirability of making a comparative study of the relative competence of full-time instructors with considerable academic training and part-time instructors with less academic training but with considerable practical experience. The Northcentral officer expressed interest in such a study, and President Jones introduced to the Academic Standards Committee the development of such a study.

A proposal for a study was formulated by the Academic Standards Committee with the hope that financial assistance could be obtained from a foundation, and a request was made to the Ford Foundation. When the Foundation refused to give any assistance, President Jones decided that the study should be pursued nonetheless at the expense of the University. This Committee is in effect then, a sub-committee of the Academic Standards Committee. Though the members should have been appointed by the President.

Item 4. The members of the Committee discussed the problem of procedure. It was not considered feasible to follow the same procedure in each School since courses differ so radically and the purposes of instruction are not parallel in each school. It was concluded that to get something under way at once any special situations which existed at the moment should be seized upon.

Mr. D'Isa stated that there was a unique situation in the Engineering School at present. It happens that the course in Statics is now being taught by six teachers, two with Ph. D.'s, two with Master's degrees, and two with Bachelor's degrees. Some are full-time, some are part-time. The students in these courses have all taken standardized tests of more than one sort and the test evidence is readily available.

Mr. Ives suggested that a careful record should be kept not only of the work and background of each student in courses studied, but also of the instructors themselves.

It was further suggested that in Arts and Sciences the courses in mathematics would lend themselves to the purposes of the study because the material covered could be objectively measured and the teachers in the department of mathematics included a good many part-time ones as well as full-time ones.

Mr. Einstein felt that in the School of Business Administration the courses which would lend themselves most readily to study would be those in accounting where instruction is given both by full-time and part-time teachers.

Item 5. For the next meeting, Mr. D'Isa agreed to bring a suggested procedure in the studies courses. Mr. Ehm will assist him in formulating his proposal.

Mr. Einstein will consult with Dean Miller of the School of Business Administration on what courses might be studied there and what procedure should be followed.

Mr. Ives will consider the possibility of making a study of communication and mathematics courses.