

MINUTES OF MEETING OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

December 1, 1977

4:00 p.m.

Present: Hill, Quinby, Khawaja, Richley, Skarote, Shuster, Edgar, Vogel

Actions:

Minutes of the last meeting were moved for approval and seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

1) Report from Charter and By Laws Committee

Dr. Khawaja reported that p.16 of "The Agreement Between the University and O.E.A. Bargaining Unit" deals with the academic department. He stated that the language of that section may restrict change in degree and major requirements. He advised soliciting input from Dr. Edgar and the president of O.E.A. before any judgement is made. *(The report was made as a result of an earlier inquiry by Dr. Khawaja as to the*
Dr. Hill questioned how it would affect the Academic Affairs *responsibility of the A.A.C.)*
Committee.

Dr. Shuster brought up that academic action within one school does not affect other schools and questioned *(it's)* influence upon academic standards. *the agreement is*

Dr. Khawaja indicated that the section in question has been changed from previous contracts and no explanation of the change is given. He and Dr. Edgar both agree that ~~action on~~ this matter *is taking place. needs clarification.*

2) Newspaper Report on Labor Studies

Dr. Edgar stated that contrary to the Vindicator article of November 27, no proposition concerning the Labor Studies Program was reviewed or passed by the Board of Trustees at their last meeting. He explained the process for review and added that the reporter may have misinterpreted information in a memo before the Board. (Memo to all Academic Deans from Dr. Edgar dated October 20, 1977.)

3) Continued discussion on Dean Paraska's recommended change in recalculation of the grade point average.

Dr. Vogel brought up concern about the meaning of "currently" in the eighth line of Dr. Paraska's memo. Dr. Richley suggested it referred to formerly current students who had been suspended. The procedure ~~does~~ *would* not apply unless the student is reinstated.

Dr. Edgar pointed out that the administration has been more liberal with the policy and suggested to leave the language as is.

Dr. Hill emphasized that the three major items of discussion were whether the grade used should be last or highest, should procedure be exclusive to courses with grades of D's and F's, and the appropriateness of the language outlining the procedure.

Dr. Richley is of the opinion that most students who repeat a "C" course only wish to raise their grade point averages. He feels this affects students who seriously need assistance.

Dr. Khawaja remarked that there is a certain amount of discrimination involved as students with a D or F grade are given more opportunity to improve than students with a C grade.

Dr. Edgar questioned the upholding of academic standards and whether the change would affect honors and graduate programs.

Dr. Shuster also added that the employer's review of a transcript is not a strong argument since studies show most employers are only interested in overall G.P.A.'s.

Dr. Khawaja suggested inviting Dean Paraska to elaborate on the proposed changes and provide the committee with additional input.

Dr. Richley added that Dean Paraska could also expand on the Labor Studies Program. He also suggested that each interested party could appear before the committee and present their case.

After some discussion on the matter, Dr. Hill proposed to ask Dean Paraska to appear before the committee and expand upon his recommended changes in recalculation of grade point averages and the Labor Studies Program. Then other interested parties will be asked to present their case. This group so far includes Dr. Yozwiak, Emily Mackall, and Dr. Beelen.
No objection was raised.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be on January 5, 1978 at 4:00 p.m.

in the ~~same~~ Engineering Dean's Conference room.