

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minutes

April 28, 1972

Members present: V.A. Richley, A.R. Curran, J.A. Scriven, E.E. Eminiher, M. Siman, M. Brunner, J. Roderick

The minutes of April 7, 13 and 21 were approved as distributed.

In response to a memo from Dr. Kohn, (Business), regarding audit grades, the Chairman informed the committee that he sent Dr. Kohn copies of the committee's minutes, which pertain to previous discussion of the audit grade. Present practice is that a transcript containing a mark of AU is accompanied by a sheet which reads, "AU-Audit." J. Scriven reported that when the current supply of such sheets is depleted, the new form will contain: "AU-Audit:Attendance not required." Thus, the employer will know that the auditor may or may not have attended class.

A memorandum was received from Emily Mackall, (Economics), in which she suggested that the letter W be eliminated from class rosters for those students who drop a course prior to the first day of class. The committee felt that this matter is not a problem in view of the fact that following the first class day, a 7-day roster is issued, with deletion of a student in this category.

The Chairman reported that he has contacted Larry Simko twice to request specific details regarding Mr. Simko's claim in a letter that a problem exists in the matter of class attendance and course grades. To date, no information has been received.

Considerable discussion was held with regard to the request by the School of Education that traditional letter grades, A, B, C, etc., in student teaching and laboratory experiences be replaced with the marks, Cr, W, and I. J. Scriven suggested that an ad hoc committee be appointed to study not only this request, but all grading practices throughout the University. As a member of the Education faculty, J. Roderick stated that a change of grade policy by the School has been under study for a considerable length of time, that a decision is urgent, and that the proposal should not be absorbed into a larger study, but should be treated separately. The Chairman and M. Siman asked whether the possible adoption of the Pass/Fail system would meet the needs of the School of Education. J. Roderick felt that the writers of the proposal may have already considered this alternative and that they should be invited to appear before the committee. At this point, the committee decided to postpone further discussion until the Pass/Fail proposal has been acted upon by the University Senate.

J. Scriven raised the question whether persons who attend Academic Affairs committee meetings should be permitted to engage in discussion. He felt that guests should limit their remarks to the item(s) on the agenda which prompted them to attend, or to items of specific interest to them. While the committee as a whole agrees that every guest should be heard, it also recognizes that random discussion can hinder the work progress of the committee. E. E. Eminiher

moved, seconded by A. R. Curran, that guests at an Academic Affairs committee meeting shall be non-participants, unless invited by the committee to engage in discussion. Motion carried.

J. Scriven reported that on April 25, 1972, the Academic Deans Council ruled that when a student repeats a course in which he received the grade, "F," only the second grade shall be included in the computation of the student's c.p.a. J. Scriven felt strongly that this matter is the purview of the Academic Affairs committee, and that it should have been referred first to this committee. The committee unanimously concurred.

Another possible problem posed by a student registered for audit was raised on the floor of the University Senate several weeks ago by President Pugsley. The President had stated that a student who needs a course for credit, that involves laboratory classes or work, should not be displaced by a student enrolled in the course as an auditor. Members of this committee made the following remarks: A. R. Curran and J. Roderick expressed the opinion that requirements for laboratory experiences vary among departments, therefore, control over who may use laboratory facilities may be difficult to exercise. J. Scriven stated furthermore that a policy relating to auditors and the use of "labs" could not be implemented until 1973. The Chairman recommended that J. Scriven develop a vehicle or procedure through which such a policy could be effected. The Chairman also stated that Dr. Behen, (History), had informally mentioned some of his concerns about the status of an auditor. The committee suggested that Dr. Behen be invited to attend a meeting to express his viewpoints. To help resolve the dilemma posed by students enrolled as auditors, J. Roderick stated that perhaps enrollment should be defined in three categories: (1) credit - a student is expected to attend class, to complete all required course work, including taking the final examination, and he will receive a grade; (2) non-credit - a student may participate in class discussion, engage in laboratory work, he may take hourly exams, but he is not permitted to take the final examination, and he will not receive a final grade; (3) audit - a student is a non-participating member of the class, he is entitled only to listen to lectures and discussion; he is not permitted in courses which require laboratory experience, and, unless otherwise indicated in the Bulletin, he must receive permission from the instructor to audit the course.

The Chairman then presented the committee with a letter received from President Pugsley, dated April 3rd, which describes the temporary restraining action taken by Ohio State University against three enterprises in Columbus engaged in the selling of academic term papers. In accordance with President Pugsley's suggestion, i.e., that Youngstown State University express a position on the selling of term papers, the Academic Affairs committee formulated the following policy statement, which will be presented to the University Senate for approval, and thereafter will be included in appropriate University publications:

A student enrolled at Youngstown State University who secures the services of an enterprise engaged in the selling of term papers, and who submits the paper as his own work to an instructor, is committing plagiarism, and is subject to the disciplinary action described on page 47 of the Youngstown State University Bulletin. 1971-72.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be held Friday, May 5, 1972, 3:00 p.m.


Juanita Roderick

Secretary

CC: V.A. Richley
A.R. Curran
E.E. Eminhizer
R. Kreutzer
F. Rosenberg
M. Siman
E.E. Edgar
J.A. Scriven
M. Brunner
President Pugsley
Mrs. Schnuttgen