

Academic Affairs Committee

MINUTES

December 9, 1971

Present were V. A. Richley, M. Siman, G. A. Dobbert, R. Kreutzer, J. A. Scriven, J. Roderick, M. Brunner, D. DeSalvo; N. Paraska, Dean of Technical & Community College; and G. DeCapita, Chairman, Dept. of Nursing.

Chair ruled postponement of Minutes until the committee had dealt with the business at hand for which the guests had been invited to give testimony, namely, admission procedures for nursing students.

Chair further summarized for the guests the committee's question regarding changes in admissions policies for the nursing program. Chair also asked whether the committee preferred to ask questions directly or to have the nursing program supervisor summarize their policies. Members preferred to hear from Miss DeCapita first.

Miss DeCapita took exception to the Chair's remarks calling the changes in admission policy of the nursing program one of structure, for she felt that it was really one of procedure. She then talked at some length about her nursing program and that of other schools, as well as the rulings of the Certification Board; which on the whole, however, did not answer the question which the committee had in mind, namely, how were students treated who qualified for the nursing programs vs. those who were given the opportunity to qualify by making up deficiencies under the A.A. program.

After some further questioning the following facts relevant to the committee's concern emerged: that the hospital laboratory facilities within the Youngstown area, mainly North and South Side Hospitals, could not accommodate more than 75 students per quarter; that, however, so far the nursing school had been able to accommodate both students having made up the deficiencies within the University and promising high school graduates. As a rule one-third of a class in Fall is made up of high school graduates, two-thirds of already-admitted students having made up their deficiencies.

Again the question was posed by J. Roderick how long the students with so-called deficiencies were kept in the holding pattern before being admitted to the program. Dean Paraska said that whenever they had made up the deficiencies; but as a rule the school would favor to admit those whom they already had known through their A.A. programs and to keep qualified high school graduates on the waiting list, which was changing anyway from quarter to quarter.

The committee then went into suggesting changes in the wording of the nursing program's policies, to which Dean Paraska and Miss DeCapita agreed if such was the pleasure of the committee. As it eventually turned out, however, the fact was that the T&CC really wanted to shift the counseling of students making up deficiencies from the Department of Nursing to the A.A. program, mainly to lighten the load for Miss DeCapita so she could devote herself to the students in the program itself.

Upon this piece of information Dean Scriven withdrew his motion (see Minutes of last Friday), and G. A. Dobbert as second consented to withdraw also. Dean Scriven suggested that this really was a matter of the admissions process, which was really the ~~admissions committee's~~ ^{Administration's} affair and not in the province of the committee. Vice President Edgar agreed, but preferred to have the committee tell him so. Thereupon Dean Scriven moved that the committee consider Item Three of Vice President Edgar's charge of November 22 to be an administrative function and hence to be reported out of committee at once. Seconded by G. A. Dobbert. Dean Scriven further expressed the feeling of the committee to the effect that the Vice President for Academic Affairs should act immediately in implementing the policy of the T&CC in an endeavor to satisfy the need for nurses. Thereupon the guests excused themselves.

Chair called for correction of the Minutes. None were forthcoming; minutes were ruled approved.

Chair then reported his conversation with the Chairman of the English Department, M. Pfau, regarding the Audit. Dr. Pfau had pointed out to the chairman that the catalog states that AU specifies that a student has attended the class as an auditor. Chair suggested that the verb "attended" be substituted by "the student has enrolled in the class as an auditor". The committee consented to this without formulating a formal motion.

Chair then turned the attention of the committee to Item One of Vice President Edgar's letter, namely that of conference courses. The committee made a few clarifications regarding the statement in the faculty handbook and, moreover, struck the last sentence regarding exceptions having to be approved by the committee, since in the committee's opinion such matters were really at the deans' discretion. J. Roderick then moved that the statement be adopted as corrected and sent to the Catalog Committee. Seconded by J. Scriven and carried unanimously.

Except in very unusual cases, personal or conference work is not offered. In the event an advisor considers conference work essential, the student may apply to the dean of the school in which he is enrolled to arrange for a conference course. The chairman of the department offering the course must also approve or disapprove requests for conference courses. A conference course request form may be secured from the Registrar. Conference courses are open only to students in their graduating year with a 3.00 average or above and must be given by full-time teachers.

Chair then brought up the topic regarding the communication of M. Pfau, Chairman of the English Department, dated November 23, which proposed to set a ceiling on the number of hours a student could take in his respective major or minor. She stated in further oral communications with the chairman of the committee that in some schools and some departments students were required to take a high concentration of courses within their own departments or schools, and that such requirements were at variance with the principle of providing the student with the broadest background possible.

In the discussion J. Roderick communicated the attitude of the School of Education, which she represents on the committee, and stated her objection to setting a ceiling for two reasons: (1) that certification requirements made it necessary that in the School of Education a student may or must have more hours than the ceiling proposed by Dr. Pfau; and (2) should the committee engage in considering such ceilings, the School of Education would take the committee's advice under advisement.

M. Siman, on the part of the Engineering School, pointed out that students had to have a certain amount of specified hours in their majors and minors in the engineering programs for the school to remain accredited. On the other hand, he conceded that there were a number of courses which were put into the catalog to please the instructor who was interested in a certain field rather than to satisfy requirements, and that students often were forced to take them; and that from this point of view there was now a comprehensive review of all engineering curricula before the Curriculum Committee.

Vice President Edgar also raised question to what extent the matter belonged into the Academic Affairs Committee and to what extent it belonged into the Curriculum Committee.

G. A. Dobbert made an attempt at a motion to the effect that the matter should be referred to the College of Arts and Sciences, since this was really an A&S matter rather than a matter for other schools. He pointed out that the College of Arts and Sciences largely was providing students with a broad education and was not training them for a specific occupation such as teaching, engineering, or the various guild occupations which involved the T&CC. It therefore appeared to him that all these schools were subject to accreditation and certification procedures, which by pure logic should take precedence over artificial ceilings set by the Academic Affairs Committee. Therefore the matter properly belonged into the College of Arts and Sciences. Chair objected to such a cavalier treatment of Dr. Pfau's proposal and asked that possibly the committee should give it some more thought. G. A. Dobbert thereupon withdrew his motion to allow a substitute motion to come on the floor as proposed by Dean Scriven, namely that the Chair communicate with other schools regarding this matter and report back to the committee. It was seconded by DeSalvo and carried unanimously.

Chair then brought up the matter regarding W's communicated to the committee by Student Council on December 2. Dean Scriven pointed out that as far as he was concerned, to give W's in the fifth or the eighth week of the quarter was immaterial to him as an administrator. However, he did point out that to tamper to any extent with a W might cost the University a considerable sum of money, in the neighborhood of roughly half a million dollars, for he pointed out that the academic auditor from the Board of Regents in Columbus

determines the state subsidy on the basis of 14th-day enrollment, and that ^{on} student transcripts in which the W did not appear, the auditor would justifiably rule that the University had asked for more hours' subsidy than it was really entitled to.

Due to the advanced hour, however, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

G. A. Dobbert
Secretary

cc: A.R. Curran, E.E. Eminhizer, R. Kreutzer, J. Roderick,
F. Rosenberg, M. Siman, V. Richley, E.E. Edgar, J.A. Scriven,
M. Brunner, D. DeSalvo, President Pugsley, Mrs. Schnuttgen,
Dean Paraska, Miss DeCapita