

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minutes

January 28, 1972

Present were G. A. Dobbert, E. E. Eminhizer, F. Rosenberg, M. Siman, V. Richley, E. E. Edgar, M. Brunner, and L. Simko (Student Government).

Chair opened the meeting, asking the President of Student Government to state the reason for his attending this meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee. Larry Simko stated that his appointee, D. DeSalvo, was unable to attend and that he, therefore, was attending on his behalf. M. Siman moved that Larry Simko be invited to attend this meeting. Seconded by F. Rosenberg. Motion carried.

Chair then asked for approval of the Minutes, which were, after some questions, ruled approved.

Chair reported on Item #1, namely that he had asked the members of the Student Government to get together with him so that they jointly could explore the problem of extending the period in which students could request a W. Chair observed that he had not heard from members of Student Government and therefore was postponing that item on the agenda until he had heard from them.

Chair then moved to Item #2 of the agenda. He distributed the responses of Deans Miller and Yozwiak on Dr. Pfau's memo suggesting that a maximum limit be set on the hours a student could take in his major. G. A. Dobbert argued that the problem could be seen from several perspectives. One was the definition of the purpose of the University, what was the task of the University as an institution combining various schools and colleges. On the one hand there were the professional schools, such as Education, Engineering, Business and T. & C.C., versus the College of Arts and Sciences. The latter was primarily dedicated to providing students with a broad academic background, and the remainder are designed to train students for specific occupations. Therefore it would be extremely difficult to set an arbitrary limit as to the number of hours a student may take in his major. Too, in varying degrees all deans were opposed to such a limit, even the Dean of Arts & Sciences. From that it is fairly

evident that while the deans may not always be able to speak fully for their respective faculties, it is fairly obvious that the good part of the departments in this respect would support their deans, and even in the Arts and Sciences a number of departments in the sciences would also be opposed to such a limitation.

E. Eminhizer stated that the English Department does have some problems in filling its courses, particularly in view of the fact that their courses were 5-hour courses and therefore more difficult to schedule and inconvenient for the student to take. Also the minimum requirement for a major could be fulfilled by taking a lesser number of five-hour courses than in other departments, where most of the courses carry four hours credit.

M. Siman then made the following MOTION: that to maintain and improve academic standards at Youngstown State University does not require the setting of limits on the maximum number of quarter hours for majors. Seconded by E. Eminhizer.

In further discussion it was brought out by Larry Simko that to set arbitrary limits on the hours a student could take would constitute an infringement on the student's academic freedom. M. Siman, in support of his motion, pointed out that the committee was in no position to shape academic rules so as to help individual departments to solve their enrollment problems. E. Eminhizer added that the department, rather than to look for help outside, should possibly examine the reasons why students were shunning their course offerings. Vice President Edgar added to that that he saw little justification for proposing such a measure on the partial basis of student enrollment.

The question was called for. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair announced that he would send a copy of the Minutes and the motion to Dr. Pfau, and, if it was agreeable to the committee, also copies of the deans' communications to the committee.

Chair then went to Item #3 of the Agenda, namely his report and summary of the questionnaires sent out regarding one-hour examinations being given in the week before finals. Chair reported that in all likelihood a large number of the questionnaires were returned by the chairmen, for generally only one or two classes were polled, rather than three as he expected.

G. A. Dobbert then outlined the questions raised by the returns. One was, were the returns representative (far less questionnaires had been returned than initially anticipated). Two: if so, does the tabulation indicate that there is a problem? Three: if there is a problem, is it really serious? Four: If it is serious, does the committee have a case sufficiently strong to go before the Senate with a recommendation, particularly taking into account the rather hostile sentiment among some of the members of the Senate to any possible recommendation of this kind. After some further discussion, G. A. Dobbert offered the following MOTION: that from the return of the questionnaires it appears to the committee that there is less of a problem of one-hour examinations being given before Final Week as it had initially been anticipated. Therefore there seems no need for the committee to make a specific recommendation to the Senate on this matter. Seconded by M. Brunner. Carried unanimously.

Under new business, the Chair shared a memo from Dean Paraska in which he asked the committee to make an exception to the rule for graduation with honors for a student in the nursing program. M. Siman raised question as to whether the committee's ~~was~~ charge included making individual exceptions to the rules. After some discussion the members agreed that this was not the case. M. Siman MOVED the following: While the committee is sympathetic to Mrs. Schreiber's case, to recommend such an exception in her case is not within its purview. It therefore recommends that Dean Paraska petition to Senate to make such an exception in her case. Seconded by E. Eminhizer. Carried unanimously.

Chair adjourned the committee to two weeks from today, same time, same place.

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, M. Pfau, G. Williamson, Dean Yozwiak, Dean Miller, Dean Robinson, Dean Charignon, Dean Aurand Jr., Dean Paraska