

MINUTES OF MEETING OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

November 10, 1977

4:05 p.m.

Present: Edgar, Hill, Kougl, Quinby, Richley, Scriven, Shuster, Skarote, Vogel

Actions:

Dr. Quinby was welcomed.

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

1. Item #1 of Dean Paraska's memo of October 5, 1977

In answer to Dr. Scriven's question of who checks on prerequisites, Dr. Richley stated the instructor tells students which prerequisites are necessary for his class.

Dr. Shuster questioned how frequently course sequences create problems. He is aware that there are scheduling problems causing such cases.

Dr. Scriven spoke of two cases in Continuing Ed. where the people took 800 level classes without the prerequisite and are doing okay.

Dr. Vogel stated that a problem occurs when a student commences studying for a degree in the spring and is in an off-schedule routine, causing a need for exceptions to be made when sequential classes are offered only during particular quarters.

Dr. Scriven indicated concern when a student takes a lower division course to raise his G.P.A. Dr. Richley remarked that would be the reason for getting approval in advance to alleviate such a situation.

Dr. Richley said there should be exceptions permitted by approval of the dean upon justification from an advisor, etc., assuming appropriate department input.

Dr. Shuster suggested removing prerequisites from certain courses and substituting "senior (or junior) standing only."

Dr. Quinby suggested amending the underlined part of the proposal with "unless an exception to this policy is recommended by the department head and approved by the dean."

Dr. Hill asked how many felt "in advance" should be struck from the statement. There was general agreement that the underlined portion of the proposal be changed to read "...unless an exception to this policy is recommended by the appropriate chairperson and approved in writing by the student's academic dean."

Dr. Richley moved to make the change as recorded by the secretary. Dr. Quinby seconded.

Dr. Vogel called for the question and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Item #2 on Dean Paraska's memo of October 5, 1977

Dr. Scriven said that prior to the policy established in 10/72 all grades from repeated courses were included in the calculation of the G.P.A. He indicated that as it is now the highest grade is accepted.

Dr. Scriven read a quote from the current catalog then stated that Dean Paraska wanted "higher" changed to "last."

Dr. Hill questioned whether a lower grade obtained the second time reflected a function of the student or a function of the instructor.

Dr. Vogel read the rationale for the change remarking that Dean Paraska's request is at odds with maintaining high academic standards.

Dr. Richley commented that the grades are not erased from the transcript, only from the G.P.A.

Dr. Shuster said the rationale for changing from "highest" to last was not explained.

Dr. Edgar explained the need to have transcripts honest and accurate, reflecting student's ability when taking the course. He suggested the policy reflect this.

Dr. Richley supported the argument of Dean Paraska stating that the problem was with what "currently" meant. Dr. Edgar suggested asking Dean Paraska to make recommendations of what "currently" (eighth line) means.

Mr. Skarote suggested allowing the policy for freshmen and sophomores only. Dr. Richley commented on the "uncomfortable" position of two year programs as a result. Dr. Hill and Dr. Edgar noted some ambiguity in the policy as it is now stated. Dr. Hill suggested a change in language regardless of other action or lack of it.

The discussion was ended because of time.

Dr. Hill stated there would be not meeting next week as well as the following week (Thanksgiving). The next meeting will be on December 1.

The meeting was ended at 5:05 p.m.

mrt