

## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

### Minutes

February 11, 1972

Present were A. R. Curran, G. A. Dobbert, E. E. Eminhizer, J. Roderick, F. Rosenberg, E. E. Edgar, M. Brunner, and George Kelly (guest).

Chair called for correction of the minutes. Minutes were corrected inasmuch as Secretary had not included J. Roderick among the members who attended the last meeting.

Chair reported on his communication with Dr. Pfau in regard to maximum hours to be set for students in their major fields. He also read into the Minutes the memo of Dr. Pfau thanking the committee for its consideration of this matter. (See Appendix.)

Chair then moved to the second item on the agenda, namely the memo from Mary B. Smith, Assistant to the Registrar, regarding the fact that medical students may use their first-year medical school for credit in applying for their baccalaureate degree. Dr. George Kelly, Chairman of Biology, addressed the committee, clarifying some of the issues which led to writing that memo. He stated that it was the practice for pre-med students to enter medical school after having completed their junior year in college, with the understanding that should they successfully complete their first year of medical school the credits earned during that first year could be applied towards their baccalaureate. G. A. Dobbert raised the question whether this matter needs to come before the Senate. Chair ruled that the precedent had been already set, since the statement had been sent to the Senate and had been defeated, but by some accident the statement as defeated by the Senate had appeared nonetheless in the catalog, as pointed out by the memo from Mary B. Smith.

A general discussion arose as to the meaning of this statement, which in its style was rather convoluted and gave the members more than a little difficulty in understanding it properly. Questions were raised how well the students could be expected to comprehend it, and it was generally agreed

that the statement in its present wording would again be soundly defeated by the Senate. The collective attempts of the members to improve upon the style proved, however, contraproductive. It was then decided that one member should be asked to rewrite the statement, in consultation with Dr. George Kelly and Mary B. Smith. F. Rosenberg graciously volunteered to undertake this task.

Dr. Kelly asked the indulgence of the committee to present it with another problem, namely that of students working towards a degree in medical technology. He said that students in medical technology could be advised both by the Chemistry Department and the Biology Department; that generally students going for this kind of degree are expected to take one year of apprenticeship before being certified. Students working towards that degree and being advised by the Chemistry Department were required to take the chemistry courses without having to take the required number of other courses required by the University for graduation. By concentrating on the required chemistry courses they could meet their requirements for apprenticeship within three years. Moreover, the places in many technical schools were limited, and they preferred to take the three-year students rather than the four-year students. Therefore the students in the medical technician program who are enrolled in the Biology Department are at a disadvantage, and he therefore let it be known to the committee that he was making a formal request to the committee to consider this matter.

Chair moved to Item 3 regarding the statement submitted by the Deans' Council to the committee concerning the changing of F's given in cases where students had unofficially withdrawn from their courses. Vice President Edgar, in explaining the background of the matter, pointed out that he was indeed very much concerned at so-called administrative grade changes, for he strongly felt that when an instructor gave a grade, the administrator should refrain from changing such a grade. On the other hand, there were circumstances, such as a student not completing the course due to causes beyond his control. Under such circumstances administrative grade changes were justified, but only to the extent that an F should be changed to a W, which in effect would not infringe upon the instructor's judgment.

Initially the committee appeared to be in favor of the deans' statement. However, the Chair raised strong objection, which also began to convince part of the members of the committee, namely that the statement as suggested by the deans really implied that the student who has unofficially withdrawn after

six weeks could petition to the dean to have his grade changed from an F to a W, while the student who has withdrawn before the sixth week without going through the procedure of getting a W could not. After further discussion Vice President Edgar suggested that he would be willing to take the statement back to the deans to resolve this problem. Chair also pointed out that otherwise he would be forced to take it to the Senate, as it was no longer an editorial change from the previous statement but a change in substance.

Chair then brought up a communication from President of Student Council, Larry Simko, who asked the committee to take up the matter of academic freedom as it applied to students and faculty. He wished also to have the committee look into the policy of grading on attendance. Chair suggested that on the first item he would take up the matter with the Executive Council and the chairman of the Faculty Affairs Committee to determine whether a statement on academic freedom should be studied, and which would be the appropriate committee to do so. As to the second item, Chair indicated that this matter had been thrashed out thoroughly in committee last year, and he wondered whether there would be much point to taking this matter up again, although he asserted that he would consult with Mr. Simko whether he felt it was important enough to be taken up by the committee again. E. Eminhizer expressed the view that the policy on attendance should be communicated to the student in writing at the beginning of the quarter so that students who had not attended the first session could not complain that they were not aware of any attendance policy.-

Under New Business R. Curran informed the committee that the Business School would address a letter to the committee in regard to the grade of AU. He mentioned the case of engineering students who registered with AU's for management courses but never bothered to show up. The Secretary quoted the minutes of November 19 in which the committee had submitted a new definition for Audit to the Catalog Committee. Dr. Curran stated that it was one thing to have a statement in the catalog and it was another to show your transcript to the employer. Vice President Edgar and the Secretary jointly suggested that a note of explanation could be appended to the transcript, explaining the grade of AU, which would be purely an administrative matter.

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

G. A. Robert  
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, Mary B. Smith, G. Kelly