

Academic Affairs Committee

MINUTES

November 19, 1971

Present were V. A. Riehley, E. E. Edgar, J. A. Scriven, M. Bruner, J. Radrick, K. Simer and G. A. Dobbert.

Chair asked for approval of the minutes. Dean Scriven moved for approval; seconded by J. Radrick; minutes approved unanimously.

Chair asked for an informal discussion of his survey form regarding one-hour examinations being scheduled in the week preceding Final Week. Vice President Edgar, having missed the discussion at the previous meeting, asked who was to administer the survey. This then led to a closer examination of the form itself, and various alternatives were suggested by the members. Chair then announced that, with permission of the committee, he would incorporate the suggestions made from the floor and present the committee with a revised form at its next meeting.

Chair then took up Item Two of the agenda, namely the discussion regarding the audit grade. Dean Scriven passed out a memo to the committee to serve as a basis for discussion and then made the following motion, which essentially was to restate and clarify the entry in the University Catalog regarding auditors, which is to read as follows:

A student may register for and attend ANY courses as an auditor. An auditor is not held responsible for the regular classwork, CLASS ATTENDANCE, and preparation of assignments, and receives no credit for the course. He pays the regular fees for the AUDIT COURSE, as well as any other applicable fees. AUDIT COURSES ARE CARRIED IN A STUDENT'S LOAD ONLY FOR FEE PURPOSES AND FOR REQUIRED OVERLOAD APPROVAL. A student who has registered for a course for audit may not change that status to credit after the last day to add a class. (An auditor is not to be confused with a special student; see Special Students, at the beginning of this section.)

Motion seconded by G. A. Dobbert.

In the ensuing discussion M. Sinau brought out the fact that there is the practice in some universities, as in Pittsburgh, to distinguish between an audit and a non-credit course on a student's transcript, and that possibly one might take such an alternative. Chair remarked that basically an audit is in the eyes of the beholder, for generally auditors are not held responsible for regular classwork. K. Brunner felt that there was too much emphasis on the fee aspect of the audit. Chair mentioned that last year the committee went on record to allow students with high point averages to audit classes free; however, there were no takers.

Vice President Edgar then brought up the question whether the audit should be included in calculating the maximum load. Thereupon a discussion developed with one side arguing for not including the audit in calculating a student's maximum load, while the other felt that it should be included. Whereupon G. A. Dobbert put forth an amendment to J. Scriven's motion, namely to strike from the last sentence of his motion that part of the sentence which reads "and for required overload approval". It was seconded by J. Roderick, who strongly advanced the view that the University ought to back away from playing nursemaid to the students and should get rid of the image of being "the high school on the hill". Other members felt, however, that the student still was in need of some guidance and control, and that in case of mature students there certainly would not be any difficulties for having audits approved beyond the maximum load by the deans. The question was called for, with 3 being in favor and 3 opposed. Chair cast the deciding vote in defeating the amendment.

Question was called for the original motion, which was carried by the committee with 3 abstaining.

The committee also had given some thought as to how the committee should communicate its decision on the audit question to the appropriate bodies of the University. Vice President Edgar suggested that the Executive Committee should be consulted whether it was a matter of concern to the Senate, while Dean Scriven suggested a memo to the Catalog Committee for inclusion in the next catalog, as well as a note to the chairman of the English Department as to the committee's action on the issue of the audit grade. Chair declared that he would take the necessary steps to report the matter out of committee as soon as he had the minutes and the relevant motion.

Committee adjourned at 4:05 p.m. until Friday, December 3, same time, same place.

CAD:jd

G. A. Dobbert, Secretary

cc: A.R. Curran, G.A. Dobbert, E.E. Sminkizer, R. Neutzer, J. Roderick, F. Rosenberg, M. Sinau, E.E. Edgar, J.A. Scriven, K. Brunner, D. DeSalvo, President Fugleay, Mrs. Schnitgen, V.A. Richley