

JOINT MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND CURRICULUM COMMITTEES

13 March 1958

Present: Mr. Behen, Mrs. Botty, Mrs. Bridgham, Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Dehnbostel; Mr. D'Isa, Mr. Dolliver, Mr. Dykema, Mr. Ellis, Mr. Chas. Evans, Mr. Fulkerson, Mr. Howard, Mr. Hummel, Mr. Geo. Jones, Mr. Kitchen, Mr. Mayer, Mr. Miller, Mr. Miner, Mr. Naberezny, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Scudder, Mr. J. E. Smith, and Mr. Wilcox

As requested by Dean Smith at an earlier joint meeting (13 February 1958), each member presented a brief summary of his position in regard to the proposed sequence in natural science.

Mr. Miller referred to his statements at earlier meetings which were largely an approval of the course as outlined. He also wished to know whether Military Science could be substituted for the new science requirement.

Mr. Behen made three points: (1) he approved the objectives as stated by the committee, (2) he deferred to the science members of the committee on the content of the course, and (3) he felt that the details of working the course into the curriculum must be arranged by the departments involved.

Mr. Dykema read a statement the gist of which was as follows: There can be no agreement on the course content of general education courses without agreement on the general purpose of a college. Since colleges are made possible by the society which support them, their first obligation is to the society. Though students generally go to college with a vocational reward as their primary objective--a reward which they do receive--the college must be mainly concerned with the student's competence, integrity, and responsibility as a citizen. Part of this preparation includes a knowledge of his physical environment and it should be the purpose of the science sequence course to provide this, and also to permit him to read critically discussions of scientific matters intended for lay readers, and to evaluate the role of scientists and their research.

Mr. Cohen reviewed the subcommittee's approach to the proposed course.

Mr. D'Isa agreed on the subcommittee's recommendations. He was doubtful however about the adequacy of the mathematics section in view of the weakness of our present entrance requirements in mathematics.

Mrs. Botty was also concerned about the mathematics portion of the course, preferring algebra to general mathematics.

Mr. Mayer offered no comment.

Mr. Ellis objected to special courses for different curriculums, and insisted on more mathematics both from highschool and in college. He also expressed a preference for more work in a single science.

Col. Hummel offered no comment.

Mr. Scudder recommended the acceptance of the subcommittee's report, but he felt that the acceptance by the faculty must be whole-hearted, otherwise it would be better to drop the whole proposal.

Mr. Howard approved the report for liberal arts students as well, though he was doubtful about the desirability of algebra. he was also disturbed by the likelihood that part-time teachers would be used to teach several sections of the course.

Mr. Naberezny stated that he generally approved the proposal.

Mrs. Dehnhostel said that she approved the plan because it provided a coherent unit.

Mr. Miner recommended the acceptance of the principle of the course without too much concern about the practical problems of working out the details.

Mr. Dolliver offered no comment.

Mr. Kitchen offered no comment.

Mr. O'Brien approved of the algebra part of the proposal but preferred more work in a single science.

Mrs. Bridgham read a prepared statement which is no longer available, but which was somewhat critical of the proposed course.

Mr. Jones suggested that as a newcomer he would attempt to express an outsider's view. His impression was that we have often produced prosperous mediocrities because of overemphasis on vocationalism. He felt that all courses needed firming-up.

Mr. Wilcox said we must decide the purpose of our science courses. He felt the goal should be: (1) awareness of the place of science in our world, (2) an understanding of the method of science, and (3) a knowledge of certain selected principles in application.

At this point Dean Smith interrupted the discussion because it was 11:55. He asked for votes on several questions: (1) Are we ready to vote on the principles involved? The majority voted yes. (2) Shall we segregate the college algebra proposed? The majority voted yes. (3) Shall we require 9 hours of general science as in the subcommittee's report plus 3 hours of general mathematics for the B.S. in B.A. and B.S. in Ed. with details to be worked out later? The majority voted yes.