

Youngstown State University
STUDENT GOVERNMENT

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Members of the Academic Standards and Events Committee
FROM: Ray Nakley, ^{TQA} President of Student Government
DATE: November 17, 1981
SUBJECT: Reiteration of the student position with regard to the proposed change of the audit policy

On June 9, 1981, I was asked to appear before the former Academic Affairs Committee to present the student objections to a proposed change of the policy governing the auditing of classes. In short, the most objectionable aspects of the proposed change were that student participation in classroom activity would be "left to the discretion of the instructor," that a student may register for an audit course "...only between the first day of classes and the last day to add a class," and that a student "...registered for a course for credit may not change that status to audit."

We objected to these changes because it was strongly felt that the proposed new policy would greatly discourage students from auditing classes and would force the withdrawal of students who, for various reasons, might not be able to pass, but having paid their fees, wished to remain in the class for whatever benefits they might derive. It was also felt that if class participation was left to the "discretion" of the instructor the potential for abuse would be greatly increased. Examples of this already having occurred were related to the Committee. It was generally agreed that any limitations necessary for safety reasons because of sporadic attendance of an auditor could be appropriately addressed through the instructor's syllabus. Further, it was the opinion of the student senators that the only truly legitimate concern with the present audit policy was that it might specifically state that credit earning students would have preference over auditing students if a particular class attracted more students than allocated spaces.

As students, we feel the audit policy should remain as flexible as possible to allow all students as many academic options rather than as a tool to punish or exclude students when course problems arise, often beyond their control.

RN/dmr