

Minutes

Academic Standards & Events Committee

13th Meeting, Feb. 8, 1984

Present: von Ostwalden, Chairman; Braden, Earnhart, McGraw, Rost, Munro, Stocks, and Hassel.

Meeting Called to order at 4:15 p.m.

Old Business:

Minutes of 12th meeting (Jan. 25, 1984) approved as distributed.

New Business:

1. The Chairman informed the Committee of a request of Dr. A. Viehmeyer (Chairman, University Curriculum Division) to appear, together with Dr. D. Rost, before our Committee to speak to and explain the details of his memo of Jan. 10, 1984 concerning "Courses Which Satisfy Area Requirements". A copy of this memo, originally addressed to Prof. Esterly, Chairman of the Academic Senate had been forwarded to us. Our Committee decided to invite Drs. Viehmeyer and Rost on Feb. 22, 1984.
2. We proceeded to discuss and formulate several points to be made in response to concerns and allegations raised in the Academic Senate meeting of Feb. 1, 1984, where our new "Proposal of Minimum General Requirements for the Baccalaureate Degree at YSU" had been presented. Our discussion, based on a very complete initial draft of ideas for a response formulated by Dean Wm. McGraw, included the following items:
 - a) We reviewed the statement by Dean Yozwiak that the present YSU graduation requirements are 60 q.h. (namely at least 46 q.h. from the areas of Humanities, Social Studies and Science/Mathematics plus 8 q.h. English Comp. plus 6 q.h. H&PE) and that our requirements appear to be 9 or 10 q.h. short of these present requirements. One answer to this might be to require the individual schools and colleges to "fill up" our 36 q.h. requirement in the 3 areas to 44 q.h. which then, with our proposed English and H&PE requirements, also would add up to 60 q.h.
 - b) von Ostwalden mentioned the possibility of changing the sub-heading "YSU Present Minimum Requirement" of the left-hand column in our "comparison table" to "Present Lower Limits of Ranges of Courses Required for Graduation" and affix to the "50 q.h." total a footnote saying: "Present Graduation Requirements: 60 q.h. consisting of 46 q.h. in areas of Humanities, Social Studies, and Science/Mathematics plus 8 q.h. English Comp. plus 6 q.h. H&PE". The Committee preferred to keep the "comparison table" as it reads now.
 - c) von Ostwalden reported that there may be objections (notably from Chemistry) to our proposed requirement of all students having to take a laboratory science course. Our committee feels, nevertheless that such a requirement is paedagogically perfectly sound and necessary for an appreciation of what science is all about. Therefore, we will retain this mandate in our proposal.

2. d) The Committee reaffirmed its conviction that the basic 12 q.h. requirement in the 3 major areas (Humanities, Soc. Studies and Science/Mathematics) is sound and shall be maintained.
- e) We made an "editorial" change in the details (p.13) of our proposal: In the 2nd before the last line of the section "Social Sciences" add "and Social Work" after "Anthropology" (before parenthesis).
- f) Some members of our Committee reaffirmed the soundness of our decision of "excluding Social Science 501, 502 and 503" from the requirements under "Social Sciences".
- g) Speech: Dean McGraw reported that, at present, about 80% of the YSU students who graduate take a course in Speech Communication, which clearly demonstrates the importance of this area.
- h) The Committee holds the opinion that all literature courses offered by the English Department are sound and valuable (including their humanities courses) and hence no particular English literature courses have to be singled out as fulfilling the requirements in our proposal.
- j) Our response to an objection, by Prof. Loud, to requiring English 551 before any 700 level course can be taken, has been perfectly formulated by Dean McGraw (see his Notes, 2.b.) and we shall maintain our position.
- k) For our response to objections of H&PE representatives to our lowering this requirement to 4 q.h., the Committee fully agrees with Dean McGraw's statement (see his Notes 4.a.).

Meeting adjourned 5:30 p.m.

P.W.v.O.

P.W. von Ostwalden
Chairman

and

Jo Ellen Hall
Secretary

cc: Dr. B. Gillis, Provost

-attachments

Notes for Standards and Academic Events Committee

1. Response to Yozwiak points.

- a. Sixty credit hours? We must answer this.
change to 48 hrs in all the areas. but every committee decides
- b. Curriculum should prompt altering the facilities, not the reverse.
- c. At no time did we contend that it ^{is currently} was impossible for hours to be added by the individual colleges. We simply think a renewed emphasis upon it is necessary in light of the faculty's need to have direct input into the special programs with which they are associated. By restricting hours to the bare, ground floor requirements, we recognize the growing complexity of the Institution.

Yes, Speech may have to add some faculty resources, but testimony from that Department indicated that it would not be an inordinate addition since % of the student body currently take a course in Speech Communication.

2. Response to points made by Professor Loud

- a. The increased hours in the area of the Humanities it seems to me would increase the likelihood of not only greater interest in foreign languages but in their literature as well.
- b. (Her objection to requiring English 551 before any 700 level course can be taken). Were we to agree to this, it seems to me that it would likely be a concession to foreign language while defeating the purpose of assuring that all students learn how to write as early as possible in their college career. All subsequent work is thereby aided. The work of the vast majority of the students is at issue here and we probably should not be concerned about assuring a few students the right to take 700 level courses as freshmen.

3. Humanities requirement generally.

- a. Perhaps we overlooked the fact that there is some non-English literature in the English Department by virtue of their humanities division. Perhaps an amendment could be offered to the effect that any English Department literature course is appropriate including the humanities courses. We would still be encouraging English and American literature because that is where the preponderance of courses lie but it would not state English and American literature only which, to my mind, is perhaps too restrictive. The humanities courses expose the student the German, French, Italian and Scandinavian literature in translation. This is good.

4. Health and Physical Education

- a. Perhaps someone should point out that the hearings revealed considerable sentiment for dropping H & PE altogether. Our retention of four hours reflects the fact that we were indeed influenced by the testimony of the H & PE faculty.

5. Mathematics

- a. It was our feeling that although in certain subject areas there is a parallel in content and rigor between high school and college, mathematics is not one of these. The majority of students who have had high school mathematics have not had the depth and rigor provided in the comparable college course. Also, mathematics is one of the best courses to assist the student in learning to think systematically and logically and to develop the type of mental skills which can be utilized in all his college work and beyond.

6. General observations.

- a. When taking this together with the new admissions standards, there has been a substantial change, (in response to those who say these represent insignificant improvements.

The requirements have been modified and/or strengthened in light of: 1. today's students' needs; 2. the best consensus we could deduce from the testimony provided in the hearings, and; 3. our own judgment as a committee.

Some of the arguments and reasoning which we are beginning to hear on the floor of the Senate, perhaps, would be more appropriately handled in the college curriculum meetings where the type of broad-based education for the business student, the education student, the engineer and the musician should be discussed.

It is important that someone other than members of this Committee speak for the proposal, particularly those who do not appear to have a vested interest.

jn
2/2/84