

ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE

July 24, 1948

1:00 p.m. - 3:25 p.m.

Present: Bloom, Bridgham, Dykema, Ellis, W. H. Miller, J. E. Smith, Westenfield, Wilcox, Worley, members of the committee; and Deesz, R. Miller, Pickard, M.B. Smith.

1.) The meeting was called at the request of Mr. Deesz, dean of the engineering school, for the purpose of clarifying college regulations in regard to engineering students with low grades. Mr. Deesz explained that since the purpose of the curriculums in engineering is to train competent engineers rather than to have students meet more specified requirements, it becomes necessary to dissuade certain students who are doing substandard work from continuing in the engineering school. Procedure followed in the past has been to notify students who receive two or more D's or F's during one semester that they are no longer in the engineering school; i.e., no longer candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Engineering. This policy means, in effect, that the students may be denied the opportunity of continuing in their engineering subjects.

The committee, though in full sympathy with the objectives of the engineering school, pointed out to Mr. Deesz that a student may be placed on probation or may be denied the privilege of taking courses of his choice only according to the printed regulations in the college catalog. These regulations cannot be interpreted to mean that an engineering student who receives two or more D's or F's may be dropped from the engineering school or may be denied the right to continue with his engineering courses. The college catalog (1947-48) states, page 95, "All prerequisites for courses in engineering must be passed with a grade of C or better before a student will be admitted to a more advanced course." So long, then, as a student has C or better in the prerequisites for engineering courses of his choice he may continue in these courses regardless of the grades he receives in other courses; provided always that he meets the grade requirements for his class as set forth on page 56. Beginning in September of 1948 the grade requirements for engineering students entering on and after that date will be 1.00 at the end of every semester. This regulation, however, cannot apply to those already in the college. If the faculty approves the action of the Academic Standards Committee of July 7, 1948, no student will be permitted to repeat any course more than once. Therefore, if a student receives a grade of D or F in a required engineering course, he will effectually have eliminated himself from candidacy for the degree of Bachelor of Engineering. *the repetition of*

The problem presented by Mr. Deesz to the committee had been aggravated by the grades of two students pursuing their engineering curriculums under Public Law No. 16. Mr. Deesz requested the approval of the committee for a form letter to be sent not only to these students but to other students who, in the opinion of the faculty of the school of engineering, would be unlikely to make good engineers. The committee,

though feeling that Mr. Deesz had full authority to formulate such letters as he saw fit, nevertheless was glad to give the requested approval to the following letter:

"Your advisor has notified me that you have a substandard grade (or grades) in a required major course (or courses) in your engineering curriculum. You may repeat once the course (or courses) in which you received the substandard grade. In view of the fact that you are training under Public Law 16 you are warned that you may not be able to reach your chosen objective within the time allotted for your training by the Veterans' Administration."

2.) The problem of determining the graduation requirements for students who entered college more than four or five years before the time when they are ready to graduate was discussed. Mr. Wilcox presented the following resolution:

It is the policy of the college that any student who completes a curriculum in effect when he entered college or any curriculum in effect in a later year will receive the appropriate degree or title.

The motion was second ed by Mrs. Bridgham but was not passed, the vote being four against, three for, one abstaining. Since the unfavorable vote was due in part at least to a feeling on the part of the committee members that insufficient time had been given for a consideration of the motion, it was moved by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Worley that a subcommittee be appointed by the chairman to consider the matter of the motion. The chairman appointed Mr. Wilcox as chairman of the subcommittee with Mrs. Bridgham and Mr. Worley as the other members.

Karl W. Dykema
Chairman