

MINUTES
Academic Affairs Committee
Youngstown State University

Date: Wednesday, May 26, 1971 at 3:00 PM in ASO Conference Room

Present: T. Miner, R. Hare, F. Smith, M. Siman, L. Simko, V. Richley,
F. Rosenberg, E. Niemi

Absent: F. Fortunato, E. Eminhizer, T. Brachfeld, P. Galterio,
G. Overby

1. T. Miner called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM and received approval of the minutes of May 5 and May 12.
2. Discussion was heard on V. Richley's statement on tests given in the tenth week. Discussion centered about academic freedom, the probable need for a stronger policy prohibiting any examination in the tenth week and the difficulty of formulating such policy at this stage in the academic year.

F. Smith moved, M. Siman seconded and the committee approved the following:

The committee statement on tests in the tenth week is to be forwarded to the Council of Academic Deans for their consideration. Upon their approval of the statement, the Council is asked to provide for its University wide distribution to all academic personnel.

3. T. Miner introduced a memo from S.N. Hotchkiss to the Academic Affairs Committee concerning the appropriateness of waivers - of University requirements for ROTC students. She also introduced the report of the ROTC Ad Hoc Sub-Committee of the Curriculum Committee which concerned itself with the ROTC program and academic credit for courses. After a great deal of discussion, the Committee felt that the ROTC Department of the College of Arts & Sciences is subject to the same policy regulations as any other department in the University.

F. Rosenberg moved, E. Niemi seconded and the Committee approved the following statement.

The ROTC Department should be required to conform to the same basic University requirements as do all other departments in the University.

4. Chairman Miner indicated that baring the need to consider emergency measures, this would be the last meeting of the Spring Quarter. She expressed her thanks to all committee members for their time and efforts. Meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
V. Richley, Secretary May 27, 1971

VR:js

cc: E. Niemi, E. Eminhizer, F. Fortunato, R. Hare, T. Miner, G. Overby,
V. Richley, M. Siman, F. Smith, F. Rosenberg, T. Brachfeld, L. Simko,
P. Galterio, Vice-President Edgar, Dean Scriven, President Pugsley,
Mrs. Schnuttgen, M. Foley

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO Council of Academic Deans

DATE May 26, 1971

FROM Academic Affairs Committee

SUBJECT

The Academic Affairs Committee has approved the following policy statement. If the Council of Academic Deans approves, we ask that the Deans circulate this statement to Department Chairmen and faculty. Should you wish to discuss this with the committee, we will be glad to meet with you. We are willing to bring this policy to the Senate in the Fall if the Council of Academic Deans thinks that method of action preferable; however the committee felt that perhaps the simplest way to achieve cooperation from the faculty on this matter was to submit it directly to you and then with your approval, hopefully, to faculty.

Recent attention has focused on a practice of questionable academic benefit to students or faculty, that of scheduling regular hour-long tests during the tenth week of the quarter. This practice occurs with sufficient commonality among faculty and with sufficient regularity so as to work hardship on a significant portion of the student body. A recent survey (Winter Quarter 1971) revealed that in a sample of 81 students approximately 1/2 of them were scheduled for two or more tests during the tenth week of the quarter. Five of these students were scheduled for four tests during that period resulting in the possibility of eight exams scheduled over a time span of two weeks. Some of these tests were given at the last class meeting of the quarter, thus preventing the student from receiving the benefits of the corrected paper.

Students faced with a series of such tests in the tenth week must simultaneously study current material, prepare for current tests and prepare for final exams scheduled for the following week. It is conceivable that their academic performance over this highly intensified period could determine 50% or more of the grade in an eleven-week course. The road to academic success is sufficiently arduous without the need to strew it with additional barriers such as the course-end rush. In fact, many universities have a closed week prior to final examinations. During this time, no social or athletic functions are scheduled, no tests are permitted, and in some cases classes are not even held, the instructor being present only to answer questions.

While academic freedom preserves for faculty the right to determine their own techniques for teaching, testing and grading it also imposes the responsibility for careful planning of course-related activities, tests in particular. It is therefore with no infringement on academic freedom that the Academic Affairs Committee recommends a policy strongly urging all faculty not to schedule hour-long tests during the tenth week of the quarter.

E. Eminhizer, F. Fortunato, R. Hare, E. Njēnā, G. Overby, V. Richley, M. Siman, F. Rosenberg, J. Scriven, F. Smith, T. Brachfeld, P. Galterio, L. Simko, T. Miner--Chairman