

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minutes

January 14, 1972

Present were A. R. Curran, G. A. Dobbert, H. Dreyfus, J. Rederick, P. Kuncberg, H. Simon, V. Kichler, E. E. Nigar, and H. Brunner.

The Chair called for corrections of the minutes, and noted that among those present Vice President Nigar had been left out. With no other corrections forthcoming, minutes were ruled approved.

Chair then briefly reported on the reaction to his progress report before the Senate on the survey of students being subjected to one-hour exams in the week before finals. He observed that the reaction on the Senate floor was almost identical to that when he announced the committee's endeavor. He further stated that there were some pungent remarks from faculty on the questionnaires so far returned to him. He also noted that not the greatest care was exercised in filling them out, and that many instructors seemed to have asked only one class, while they undoubtedly must have more than one class to teach. He said the committee would be lucky to get fifty per cent return.

As to Item Two, the Chair distributed to the members the response of the deans of the schools of Education, Music, T. & C.C. and Engineering. A cursory glance by the members at these communications showed that the deans were highly opposed to any ceiling being put on the hours required for a major in a student's field. Dean Miller communicated by phone with the Chair and said that he would present his views to the committee, should the latter favor such a ceiling. After further discussion, in which the fact came to light that a subcommittee of the Curriculum Committee was studying the general University requirements for graduation, G. A. Dobbert moved that the committee postpone further consideration of this matter until it had heard from all the schools of the University in writing, namely the School of Business and the College of Arts and Sciences. Seconded by H. Curran and carried unanimously.

Chair then introduced item three for consideration. He stated the past history of giving W's and suggested the fact that this question had been thoroughly discussed in the committee two years ago when the present ruling was made that the last date permissible to withdraw from a course was the sixth week of the quarter, which was based on the assumption that the student will have had two or at least one examination to give him some idea as to his standing in class. Vice President Edgar, however, mentioned that he recalled of that discussion that there were quite a few cases mentioned in which one examination merely had been given, let alone returned, by the withdrawal deadline. The committee then discussed at some length the contention of Student Council that W's on a transcript may unfavorably prejudice an employer. J. Redarick corroborated this, saying that in talking with school officials they did indicate that a large number of W's might reflect that an applicant may be shiftless or unstable. It was further brought out in the course of the discussion that the faculty had a responsibility not only to the student but also to the employer; also that W's on a transcript would look different in the case of a student with a 6-point average versus one with a 1.9 average. G. A. Deibert mentioned the practice among students to shop for easy instructors and to sign up for more classes than they really planned to take. He addressed himself to Mark Brunner, a student representative, and asked him whether the Student Council could substantiate its contention that W's were highly prejudicial in seeking employment, and that he was not in favor of tampering with the W situation until there was more substantiating evidence furnished by the student government. R. Curran pointed out that he as a recent faculty addition was highly astonished at ISU's being so liberal in the length of the period given to the student to withdraw in. He also suggested that W's given on the initiative of the administration due to classes being cancelled because of insufficient enrollment could be recorded in the student transcript as administrative withdrawals. M. Sinen made the pertinent observation that if the period would be shortened there would be proportionately more F's than W's, and conversely, if the period would be lengthened there would be more W's than F's.

Chair then summarized the debate and proposed the following course of action:

- (1) That he or the committee communicate with Mary Smith, Assistant Dean of Admissions and Records, as to how the W was recorded and explained in the student's transcript.

- (2) Find out how many classes in the past quarter were cancelled and how many students were thus affected. This could be easily determined by the fact that for such changes the two dollar add-drop fee was not collected by the University.
- (3) That the Chair would communicate with Student Council and invite them to further substantiate and talk about their feelings regarding the W's on student transcripts.

G. A. Dobbert so moved; motion seconded by H. Curran and carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned, with the date tentatively being set for January 28, same time, same meeting place.

G. A. Dobbert
Secretary

cc: A.R. Curran
E.E. Emlinizer
R. Kreutzer
J. Roderick
F. Rosenbergh
M. Siman
V. Richley
E.E. Edgar
J.A. Scriven
M. Brunner
D. DeSaivo
President Pugsley
Mrs. Schnuttgen

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO Dr. Victor Richley, Chairman, Academic Affairs CommitteeDATE January 14, 1972FROM J. A. Scriven

SUBJECT Letter Received From Mr. Jones and Mr. Duquin

Please refer to my memorandum to you dated December 3, 1971 concerning the letter received from Mr. Jones and Mr. Duquin. As I reflected on the complaint of the students concerning the "Administrative 'W'", I felt that we should attempt to overcome the matter referred to in the letter. As a result, I am pleased to report the following.:

1. At the present time, the permanent record card and grade report does not indicate a "W" when a student enrolls in a section which is split through administrative action.
2. Beginning with the current quarter, the grade of "W" will not appear on a student's permanent record card or grade report for courses in which the student enrolled when the course is cancelled by the university.
3. Beginning with the Spring Quarter, 1972, all grades of "W" in which a student registers through scanning error will not appear on the grade report or permanent record card.

Again I feel that the students are to be commended for bringing to our attention matters which are of importance to them concerning their records. I only wish that the entire matter could be solved during the immediate quarter but I am sure that our students will be pleased that this particular source of irritation will be solved in a two-step process which will be finalized during the Spring Quarter of this year.

cc: Vice President Coffelt
Bill Jones, Student Council
Mike Duquin, Student Council
Members of the Academic Affairs Committee

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Results of YSU Survey

On 10th Week Exams

Academic Affairs Committee

January 25, 1972

1. Mechanism used - Survey of Students by Senate Academic Membership.
2. Total number of survey forms distributed ----- 108
3. Total number of survey forms returned ----- 46 (42.5%)
4. Total number of students polled ----- 1615

Number of Exams Taken					Helpful	Harmful
0	1	2	3	4		
58.7%	28%	9.54%	3.28%	.48%	51.8%	48.2%
948	452	154	53	8	263	244

SOME CONCLUSIONS DRAWN

1. Largest group responding (58.7%) took no exams.
2. 86.8% of students polled took one exam or less.
3. 96.5% of students polled took two exams or less.
4. Only 31% of students polled responded to the helpful or harmful question. Their response was equally divided.
5. _____

January 10, 1972

TO: Professor Victor Richley, Chairman of the Senate Academic Affairs
Committee
FROM: C. Vanaman, Assistant Dean, School of Education

This memorandum is a partial response to your memorandum of December 14, 1971 concerning the proposal by Dr. Pfau of the English Department which deals with the limitations on the number of quarter hours of course work which a student may take in the major and minor areas.

As the major school of the University which must deal directly with the State of Ohio in certifying our graduates, we have some very grave concerns and interests in this proposal. At the risk of being redundant, we should like to first call to the attention of the committee the current catalogue statement concerning majors and minors (Youngstown State University Catalogue Issue 1971-1972, page 41, column 2)

"Majors and Minors. The student must complete a major and at least one minor.

A departmental major consists of at least 45 quarter hours with grades of C or better in one department.* A combined major, for which the courses are in more than one department, consists of at least 70 quarter hours with grades of C or better.

A minor consists of at least 21 quarter hours with grades C or better in a department other than that of the major.

The chairman of the department the student is majoring in determines the course requirements for both the major and the minor or minors; both must meet with his approval. He may require the student to do more, but not less, than the minimum stated above. (The student might also want to consult with an advisor from the department he is minoring in)

*For this purpose, the School of Education, the Dana School of Music, and the William Rayen School of Engineering are departments, and each foreign language is a department."

Also the following information from the "Laws and Regulations Governing Teacher Education and Certification," effective January 1, 1972, Ohio State Department of Education.

EDb-301-08 ELEMENTARY TEACHER (GRADES 1 THROUGH 8, INCLUSIVE)

Provisional Certificate

Professional Education (44 quarter hours)

Students who elect Kindergarten Certification must take nine (9) quarter hours of professional education or a total of 53 quarter hours of professional education. If the elementary student elects also to be certified as a teacher of the Educable Mentally Retarded in addition to the Standard elementary certificate an additional 26 quarter hours of professional education are required.

The professional certificate for high school teaching requires a minimum of 32 quarter hours of professional education. The teaching field requirements in quarter hours are as follows:

EDb-301-10-01 COMPREHENSIVE TEACHING FIELDS

Business Education (68 quarter hours)

Communications (90 quarter hours)

Family Life Education (90 quarter hours)

Humanities (90 quarter hours)

Science (90 quarter hours)

EDb-301-10-02 SPECIFIC HIGH SCHOOL TEACHING FIELDS

Visual Arts (45 quarter hours)

Biological Science (30 quarter hours)

Bookkeeping and Basic Business (30 quarter hours)

Chemistry (30 quarter hours)

Earth Science (30 quarter hours)

Economics (30 quarter hours)

Educational Media (30 quarter hours)

English (45 quarter hours)

General Science (30 quarter hours)
Geography (30 quarter hours)
Health (30 quarter hours)
History (45 quarter hours)
Home Economics (45 quarter hours)
Industrial Arts (45 quarter hours)
Journalism (30 quarter hours)
Languages - Latin and Greek (30 quarter hours)
 All other (45 quarter hours)
Mathematics (30 quarter hours)
Music (45 quarter hours)
Physical Education (30 quarter hours)
Physics (30 quarter hours)
Political Science (30 quarter hours)
Sales-Communication (30 quarter hours)
Social Psychology (30 quarter hours)
Sociology (30 quarter hours)
Speech (45 quarter hours)
Stenography and Typing (30 quarter hours)

EDb-301-12-01 AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Visual Arts (75 quarter hours)
Educational Media (45 quarter hours)
Health Education (45 quarter hours)
Industrial Arts (68 quarter hours)
Languages (75 quarter hours)
Music (75 quarter hours)
Physical Education (68 quarter hours)
Speech (60 quarter hours)

It is at once apparent from the above data that restrictions as to the number of quarter hours in the major and minor areas, as a part of University requirements, might result in direct and immediate conflict with the Laws and Regulations Governing Teacher Education and Certification for Ohio which must be complied with if we are to secure certification for our graduates.


The thrust of Dr. Pfau's memorandum of November 23, 1971, while perhaps having some surface merit, will not only conflict with the laws and regulations of Ohio, but is contrary to the current pattern and movement towards staff differentiation, concentration and specialization in the preparation of public school teachers. Officially, we are not in a position to support this proposal even if this were feasible.

Based on this preliminary statement, may we suggest that an opportunity be given for Education Department Chairmen and Administration to appear before the committee to further amplify the position of the School of Education and the difficulties which are inherent in adoption of such a proposal.

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO V. A. Richley, Chairman, Academic Affairs Committee DATE December 15, 1971

FROM M.J. Charignon, Dean of Engineering 

SUBJECT PROPOSAL FOR LIMITING STUDENTS' MAJOR AND MINOR COURSE WORK

Dr. Pfau's proposal to place an upper limit of 60 quarter hours of course work any student may take in any major field is unrealistic for the following reasons:

1. To place a limit, university wide, hampers the development of new curriculums and keeps the existing ones stalemated.
2. The University is made up of colleges each having its own accrediting problems. Such a limitation would promptly unaccredit most professional schools.
3. Each college might be able to limit its majors but to do so on a University basis is to make the University a college.

MJC/vdd

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO Dr. Richley, Chairman - Academic Affairs CommitteeDATE Jan. 12, 1972FROM N. ParaskaSUBJECT Proposal for Limiting Students' Major and Minor Course Work

After having studied the effect on programs in the Technical and Community College of the suggestion made by Dr. Pfau to limit the hours in the students major to 60 hours and in the minor to 28 hours, I am convinced that this would not be a desirable move.

The first reason in opposition to this recommendation is that this restriction would conflict with accreditation or certification requirements in certain programs. Secondly, this restriction would adversely affect those individuals who complete a two-year program either at Youngstown State University or at another institution of higher learning and then continue to earn a baccalaureate degree. Since two-year programs generally require approximately 50% of the subject matter in the technical area, an individual earning an associate degree would end up with approximately 45 to 50 hours in the area of his major. If he continues toward the baccalaureate degree in the same major, he will complete considerably more hours in his major than the 60 hours suggested as the ceiling.

The third opposition to this proposal is that such a ceiling on the major and minor hours would deny the student the choice of gaining the additional specialization that he may wish to gain by taking an increased number of hours in his area of specialization.


N. Paraska

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YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO 44503

17 December 1971

Dr. V. A. Richley, Chairman
Academic Affairs Committee
Youngstown State University

Dear Dr. Richley:

In response to your memo of December 14, 1971 regarding Dr. Pfau's proposal to limit academic majors to 60 quarter hours, I wish to simply state that adoption of this proposal would totally eliminate the professional School of Music curriculum from the University.

While I fully realize the pressures that the chairmen of the Liberal Arts Departments face with declining enrollments and the resulting need to recruit additional students for elective courses, this proposal would result in the dismembering of our School of Music. The end product of adoption of the 60 quarter hour rule would decrease, not increase, student credit hours in the School of Science and Arts, because we would not have music majors electing the basic 12 hour communication requirement or other liberal arts courses presently required in our curriculums.

Our present Music Education curriculum enrolls approximately 90% of our students. This curriculum requires a total of 148 quarter hours of professional work, exclusive of 30 hours of School of Education courses needed for certification. It is inconceivable that we could retain accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Music and certification by the Ohio Department of Education if we reduce our major 58 quarter hours.

I strongly urge that the Academic Affairs Committee reject this proposal, and that it consider moving in the direction of giving greater, not less, autonomy to the various professional schools of the university regarding curriculum matters. Such a move would be more consistent with the recommendations of the Carnegie Commission and the Newman Report.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Aurand, Dean
Dana School of Music

cha/dd