

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minutes, May 19, 1972

Members present: E. E. Edgar, M. Siman, F. Rosenberg, E. E. Eminhizer,
J. A. Scriven, M. Brunner, V. Richley, J. Roderick.

Guest: Dr. W. M. Hammack, Director of Student Teaching,
School of Education.

The minutes of April 28 read that a policy statement regarding the selling of academic term papers would be submitted to Senate for approval. The Chairman explained that since the Committee agreed that the practice of turning in such a paper to an instructor constitutes plagiarism, and since the University already has a policy applicable to plagiarism, a statement to the Senate is unnecessary. The Chairman then presented the Committee with a revised policy statement which will be forwarded to President Pugsley and to the Catalogue Committee.

The minutes of May 12 were then approved.

W. M. Hammack presented a revision of the proposal for grade changes submitted by the School of Education. The revision includes the symbol, N/C, No Credit, meaning, "unsatisfactory completion of the course." The original proposal implied that "I" could be used for the student who refused to withdraw from student teaching for unsatisfactory performance. W. M. Hammack reported that roughly 80% of the Education faculty who voted on the revision, favored the inclusion of N/C. The Chairman stated that if the Pass/Fail system receives Senate approval, there will be no need to introduce Education's proposal. He also noted that no specific time for implementation of the policy is mentioned in the proposal, and if the question of "when" is raised by the Senate, he would reply, "as soon as possible." W. M. Hammack remarked that the School of Education hopes to implement the policy in September, 1972. J. A. Scriven expressed concern that R. W. Jonas, head of Student Date Services, had not been consulted about processing grades, scan sheets, etc., and pointed out that Education should take this fact into consideration, with respect to "timing." W. M. Hammack felt that there would be no problem, since grades for fall quarter are not processed until December. Referring to the Pass/Fail proposal, E. Eminhizer stated that Education might be delayed in implementation of Cr/NC practices, if for some reason a problem develops in Senate concerning this system.

Referring to a matter discussed at a previous meeting, the consensus of the committee is against lengthening the W period. The Chairman stated, however, that a faculty member should indicate to a student, in some way, the student's academic standing in a class by the end of the sixth week.

Considerable discussion was devoted to L. Simko's letter in which he claimed that professors in the Economics and Chemistry departments are required to use standardized tests, and, that this requirement is a violation of a professor's academic freedom. The Chairman stated that he had met informally with L. Simko, who said that he does not have any evidence to support his claim. E. E. Edgar, E. Eminhizer and J. Roderick stated that the use of standardized tests may be department policy, in which case the matter would not come under the providence of this committee. The Chairman strongly felt that serious attention should be given to any and all questions raised by students, and the Committee just as strongly concurred. F. Rosenberg stated, however, that a student should validate his claim with facts or statistics, otherwise, the substance of the letter may appear to be little more than heresay. M. Brunner suggested that L. Simko be invited to attend a meeting regarding his claim, but the Chairman reiterated that he (Simko) has no additional information. At this point, E. Eminhizer recommended that the Chairman send a letter to L. Simko suggesting that either he submit evidence that the administering of standardized tests results in lowering academic standards, in which case the matter would be a problem for consideration by this committee, or, if the requirement of a professor to administer a standardized test is felt to be an infringement on academic freedom, the professor involved should refer the matter to another committee.

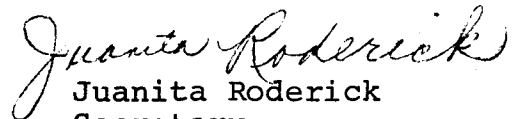
The Chairman distributed a letter written by E. E. Edgar on May 4 which refers to an item in the minutes of April 28. The minutes read, in essence, that the motion approved by the Academic Deans Council with respect to the repeating of a course and the recalculation of a student's Q.P.A. should have been referred first to the Academic Affairs Committee. E. E. Edgar's letter states: "It was clearly understood by the Council, that, of course, this motion would be referred to the Academic Affairs Committee for consideration and recommendation to the Senate." The motion reads:

"Effective September, 1972, that when a course taken for undergraduate credit is repeated, only the last grade recorded be counted in calculation of the Q.P.A. Current students may petition for the Q.P.A. recalculation of previous course work repeated at Youngstown State University."

The Chairman questioned whether the better of the two grades should be used in the recalculation. E. Eminhizer and J. Roderick felt that a student who repeats a course, "takes his chance." J. A. Scriven questioned whether a student working for honors would be

likely to repeat a course in which a B or C was earned to raise his Q.P.A. J. A. Scriven then moved, seconded by E. Eminhizer that - if Senate meets again this academic quarter, the motion should be presented: motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held Friday, May 26, 3:00 p.m., EGSB.


Juanita Roderick
Secretary

CC: President Pugsley
E. E. Edgar
M. Brunner
A. R. Curran
E. E. Eminhizer
R. Kreutzer
V. Richley
F. Rosenberg
J. A. Scrivan
Mrs. Schnuttgen
M. Siman