

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minutes, May 26, 1972

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

The motion contained in the minutes of May 19, with regard to repetition of a course and subsequent recalculation of a student's Q.P.A., should read, "Effective Fall Quarter, 1972," instead of, "Effective September, 1972." (See minutes, May 19.) The minutes were then approved as corrected.

Discussion was held about the recalculation of a student's Q.P.A. for repeated courses, with V.A. Richley stating that an academically poor student should not have to be forced to petition a grade change every time he repeats a course. J.A. Scriven stressed that a student must initiate a petition for the recalculation because the computer will not be able to automatically perform this function for at least two years. J. Roderick felt that any student who spends the time and money in repeating a course to raise his Q.P.A. most probably would make certain that the recalculation was made and would not likely assume that this would be done automatically; this opinion is based on her observation of students seeking the required Q.P.A. for admission to the School of Education.

Continuing to speak about the repetition of a course, V.A. Richley, who favors the use of the better of two grades in calculation, placed numerical figures on the chalk board which indicated that there is no difference between giving the better of the two grades or the latter of the two grades. J.A. Scriven and E.E. Eminhizer took the position that the latter of the two grades should be used in recalculation of a Q.P.A., and if a student should fail the course upon taking it a second time, he should accept the consequences. "To reward a student who really did not succeed in a course is immoral," remarked E.E. Eminhizer.

Attention was then given to the motion itself, which pertained to courses repeated and the recalculation of a Q.P.A. A.R. Curran moved, seconded by E.E. Edgar that the original motion, (see minutes, May 19, 1972), be revised to read "current students must petition for the Q.P.A. recalculation of previous as well as present courses taken at Youngstown State University." The motion carried. Thus the revision more clearly indicates to a student that the recalculation is not automatic nor retroactively an automatic procedure.

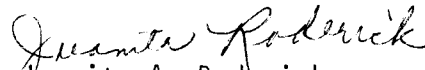
J.A. Scriven presented the Committee with a research study of student enrollment on an audit basis. The total number of auditors during Spring Quarter 1972 was 1.495%. Furthermore, the majority of students who audit courses were initially enrolled on a credit basis, but changed their status to auditor between the 14th day of school and the sixth week. Based on this study therefore, the likelihood of an auditor occupying a laboratory space over a credit student is minimal. The Committee then agreed that the Chairman should send a memo to President Pugsley regarding this matter, since he (the President) had raised the question from the Senate floor several weeks ago. E.E. Edgar questioned the use of language labs by auditors and J. Roderick stated that her experience at Youngstown State University was that a student was required to "sign in" and to indicate the name of his instructor; this procedure, therefore, resulted in some degree of control over the use of labs.

The Chairman reported that Dr. Behen had informally inquired about the role of an auditor; specifically, should an auditor be permitted to participate in class. A.R. Curran stated that an auditor should have the same rights as a student seeking credit, since an audit student at Youngstown State pays full rate per credit hour, unlike auditors in some other institutions.

The Chairman also reported that he sent a memo to L. Simko regarding the Committee's opinions on the required use of standardized tests in some departments, (See minutes, May 19, 1972).

Following completion of items on the agenda, E.E. Eminhizer raised the question concerning who in the university determines whether an A.B. or B.S. degree is granted. For example, the catalogue states that everyone enrolled in Liberal Arts receives an A.B. degree, yet is there any reason a student enrolled in Liberal Arts, who majors in history, cannot elect to receive a B.S. degree. Opinions expressed were that a faculty establishes requirements for a particular degree, A.B. or B.S., and therefore completion of those requirements results in the conferment of that degree. On the other hand, the catalogue states in one place that degrees are given by the university, and in another place, that certain degrees are granted by the College of Arts and Sciences.

There being no further business, and since this was the final meeting of the 1971-72 academic year, mutual expressions were extended for a job well done.

  
 Juanita A. Roderick  
 Secretary

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

REPORT TO SENATE  
BY  
THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

PROPOSED CHANGE CONCERNING  
REPEATED COURSE GRADE and CALCULATION of Q.P.A.

Current University policy regarding repeated courses and calculation of the Q.P.A. is:

"If a course is repeated, the repetition is treated merely as another course, along with the first, in calculating the point index."

A review of this policy by the Academic Deans Council resulted in a request to the Academic Affairs Committee that the policy be revised so that only the last grade earned in a repeated course would be counted in the calculation of the Q.P.A.

Upon consideration of present policy, the Academic Affairs Committee agrees with and supports the recommended policy revision since it results in a more equitable system for computing the Q.P.A. Of particular importance, the revised policy would delete a system under which a student who fails a course, and who later repeats and passes the same course, is penalized by his poor initial performance.

In formulating a revised policy statement for Senate consideration, the Academic Affairs Committee sought to establish that:

1. The transcript continue to show the students' total performance recording all grades earned in all courses, repeated or not.

2. Only the last grade in a repeated course be counted in computing the Q.P.A.
3. The new policy be established for Fall Quarter 1972 and that it be made retroactive for current students regarding past repeated courses.
4. A simple automatic method be established for implementing the new policy in the future.

A study of the current registration process shows that the only practical means by which the new policy can be implemented requires that the student "trigger" a corrective mechanism by filing a petition. The committee has been assured that the petition is not one which requests permission to have the new policy implemented, but instead, simply "triggers" the mechanism by which the new policy is applied. It is necessary that the student petition since he is the only person who knows that the course he has just completed is the repeat of a previously completed course.

Mr. President, on behalf of the Academic Affairs Committee I move Senate approval of the following motion.

MOTION

Effective Fall Quarter, 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 must petition for the Q.P.A. recalculation of previous as well as present coursework repeated at Youngstown State University.

Respectfully Submitted

Victor A. Richley, Chairman

June 2, 1972