

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Graduate School

Minutes of the Executive Committee
Thursday, March 12, 1964
11:30 A.M. Campus Club

Present: Dr. C. P. Barnum, Professors A. Orville Dahl, W. E. Ibele,
W. P. Martin, W. A. Russell, D. R. Torbert, Dr. Victor Johnson
Deans Thomas W. Chamberlin, F. M. Boddy, J. C. Haugland;
Dean Bryce Crawford, Jr., presiding; Mrs. Shirley McDonald, secretary.

1. The Master of Science in Chemistry - Duluth

Dean Crawford reported to the Executive Committee that the degree in Chemistry at Duluth has been established as a Master of Science rather than a Master of Arts as originally proposed. This was changed so that the designation would be consistent with the form generally used for degrees in the physical sciences area.

2. Master of Science in Physical Therapy - Designation

Another action reported to the Committee is the separation of designation for two Master's programs - the M.S. in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation and the M.S. in Physical Therapy. Although the program for physical therapists has been approved and in operation for a number of years, it was established in the Graduate School as an M.S. in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. As a result there has been confusion in terminology since the program in Physical Medicine is a separate one for physicians. At the request of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, the change has been approved and the programs will be designated as M.S. in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and M.S. in Physical Therapy.

3. Continuous Registration for Ph.D. Candidates

The dean mentioned that positive effects of the continuous registration regulation are becoming apparent in several ways. It has been reported by a member of the Graduate Faculty that his work load has increased substantially due to theses written in absentia.

The sudden increase in the number of microfilm payments (for Ph.D. theses) also seems to indicate more activity on the part of the Ph.D. students.

4. The Use of the Preliminary Oral Examination and the Scheduling of these Examinations

There have been a number of preliminary orals scheduled at an hour so late that an adequate examination and evaluation of the candidate's performance is difficult.

Dean Crawford suggested that the Graduate School not schedule any preliminary orals after 2:00 P.M. in order to allow a full three hour

examining period if needed. The Executive Committee agreed with this suggestion in general, but it was suggested by Professor Russell that a 2:30 hour might be set when committee members or students have classes until 2:20.

Professor Ibele, in this connection, brought up the question of examinations passed with reservations. A number of examining committee members have expressed some dissatisfaction with the procedure which allows the candidate to approach each member individually in an effort to remove the reservations. This puts the committee at a disadvantage because each member must act independently, or in "isolation." Professor Ibele said that some faculty believe that the questions should be resolved in the presence of the full committee.

The Executive Committee agreed with this viewpoint generally and will seek some positive suggestions in this regard. (see attached memo from Professor Ibele.)

5. Draft Deferment for Ph.D. Candidates on Continuous Registration

A question has been raised in the Graduate School regarding certification for deferment of Ph.D. candidates.

The Executive Committee agreed that the adviser is really the only person in a position to know if a student is pursuing full time study (whether on a credit basis or thesis research). The Graduate School will contact the advisers in these instances and act upon their recommendation.

6. The Elimination of the Foreign Language Requirement for the Master's Degree in Certain Fields

During the discussion of this item at a previous meeting, Dean Haugland was asked to survey some Master's programs in an effort to determine how many students offer a language as part of a Master's degree program. It was found that approximately 30% of the programs surveyed required a specific language. There was no further discussion at this time.

7. The Possibility of Changing or Combining some of the Graduate Faculty Appointment Categories

Dean Crawford reviewed the reactions from the various group committees. (These were summarized in the February 20 Executive Committee minutes.)

Professor Torbert, for Language and Literature, suggested some reversal and combination of the present order. For example, the A category might be used for the full member; the B category could be a combination of the present A-2 and A-3 categories and be reserved for associate members. Perhaps a new category, C, could be used for those teaching specified courses.

Professor Ibele, for Physical Sciences, said that the A-2 category is

useful for visiting faculty and for some initial appointments. There might be some means by which a member serving as A-2 for one year could be moved automatically to A-3 without another group committee review.

The several discussions on this item seemed to lead to a general agreement by the Executive Committee that each of the present categories is useful and that probably they should be retained.

8. Discussion of the Points of Policy Regarding Graduate Programs at Duluth

A statement of proposed points of policy regarding the development of graduate programs at Duluth was circulated recently to the group and Executive Committee members for study and discussion. Dean Crawford remarked that this is a statement of general policy used in approving any graduate programs at the University.

The dean referred to a letter from Professor Dahl in which comments of some of the botany faculty were reported. It was suggested that in addition to the proper concern for adequate staff and facilities, the maintenance on the Minneapolis and St. Paul Campuses, of the center of graduate operations for the total University and the whole state should be considered.

Professor Ibele commented on the teaching commitments of graduate advisers, adequacy of library and laboratory facilities, stating that these are matters of individual judgment and that perhaps special guidance is necessary here. Dean Crawford said that because of the variation between fields and departments teaching loads must be judged individually, but advice can be sought, when needed, even outside the University.

Dr. Barnum suggested that emphasis be placed on continuity in the strength of faculty, facilities, and resources.

Dean Chamberlin then asked about initial steps in setting up new graduate programs. Dean Crawford said that it is good to inform the Graduate School on any tentative plans since it may be of assistance or help locate the people from the several departments, or elsewhere, who can be useful in advising on the development of new programs.

Dean Crawford said that work on the policy statement will continue with a view toward a definitive adoption.

9. Use of the Grade Point Average

Dean Boddy reviewed the purpose for the proposed use of a grade point average in Master's programs. First, it would serve to remove from the student, the weapon of persuading his instructor to give a B grade when it isn't earned. Next, many instructors would like to have a larger spectrum of grades and have mentioned the possibility of plus and minus grades. The use of the appropriate letter grades with a required overall average could serve this purpose.

The Executive Committee in its deliberations with the group committees found that many agree that a grade point average might raise the grading standards, but found a good deal of variation in opinion on just what grade point average should be set. Some feel that a 2.8 is too low, but that a 3.0 might be too high. Dean Boddy suggested that a 2.9 g.p.a. be considered. This would allow the student 1 C grade on a Plan B program which otherwise contains all B's. He brought out another advantage in the grade point average. It might encourage students to take courses in the minor which are valuable to the total program even though they must compete with students majoring in these subjects.

At this point, the discussion turned to the use of the grade point average in the Ph.D. Dean Boddy and others expressed some hesitancy in applying the overall average to the Ph.D. program since this is essentially an examination degree. However, there is a Graduate School regulation which states that grades below B are not permitted in the major. Thus the situation of the "pressured" B's exists here as well as in the Master's program.

Dean Crawford suggested the possibility of removing from the Graduate School Bulletin the statement about the B requirement. This might allow legitimate C's on the program, help prevent retaking courses to raise grades, and reduce the number of petitions to remove courses from the program. Dean Boddy pointed out a complication stemming from the minimum grade requirement for the Research Technique and Collateral Field options.

Dr. Barnum asked whether some alternatives could be presented in respect to the Ph.D. Dr. Boddy stated that there are five possible alternatives: (1-2) Use the M.A. rule, accept grades of A,B,C,D; have a 3.0 grade point average or have no stated grade point average; (3-4) recognize only A,B,C, grades with or without a grade point average; (5) retain the present system.

Dean Crawford asked that the group committees discuss the suggested 2.9 average for the Master's program so that a definite proposal can be made and also to consider the suggestions made in respect to the Ph.D.

10. Attendance at Final Oral Examinations

Professor Ibele asked about the practice in regard to attendance at final oral examinations. Currently, these examinations are open to members of the faculty should they wish to attend. The announcements of examinations in the Minnesota Daily Bulletin carry this invitation.

Professor Ibele asked whether there might be any objection to the final orals being open to all. Dean Crawford said that if a given department decided that the final oral would be an open seminar type of examination, there would be nothing in Graduate School Policy to prevent it.

Professor Russell suggested that the notice in the Daily Bulletin state

that the finals be open to the public. After some discussion the Executive Committee agreed that the announcement might indicate that the final oral examination is open to members of the graduate faculty and the graduate student body. Others might attend only with the permission of the chairman of the examining committee. It would be understood, of course, that these visitors would not participate in the examination.

No final conclusions were reached on this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley McDonald
Secretary

March 19, 1964

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Institute of Technology

March 17, 1964

TO: Dean Bryce Crawford, Jr., Graduate School

FROM: Dr. Warren E. Ibele, Chairman, Physical Sciences Group Committee

SUBJECT: Ph.D. Oral Preliminary Examination

Since last fall I have received protests from members of the graduate faculty about a practice followed in some instances when a candidate "passes with reservations." The practice consists of having the candidate visit all, or some, of the appointed committee individually where, for all practical purposes, the examination is continued, but in a series of fissioned (and illegitimate?) segments. There are several disadvantages to such a procedure. One I have observed from my contact with such cases is that the enterprising graduate student effectively assumes direction of the examination. Using elementary tactics and psychology (our students are well versed in these I am happy to report) he is usually able to set the time and sequence in which members of the committee are seen and thus isolate the one or two committee members who may have had reservations. Thus, what was intended to be a committee finding, based on discussion of an examination collectively administered by the committee, evolves to a series of independent isolated decisions.

In one instance, a faculty member having once been a party to such a procedure has given notice of his refusal to participate on such a basis again. Others have expressed a general dissatisfaction with such arrangements.

I am sympathetic to these protests for the reason that it seems to circumvent the examination's purpose; to have a group of the graduate faculty decide jointly, after due deliberation, if the candidate should or should not become a candidate for the doctorate. If the candidate is passed with reservations, these reservations ought to be clearly indicated and understood by all at the time of the examination. If this is not possible for some reason, then the examination should be either rescheduled with the same committee gathered, or the committee dismissed and a new one constituted to examine the candidate.

I bring this matter to your attention not knowing how wide spread the practice is throughout the graduate school, but certain that as I and others have observed the practice it constitutes an abuse of the spirit of the oral preliminary examination.

March 16, 1964

Dr. Frederic J. Kottke,
Professor and Head
Department of Physical Medicine
and Rehabilitation

Dear Dr. Kottke:

Dean Crawford asked me to write to you regarding your request in respect to the Master of Science in Physical Therapy.

The separation of the two designations has been approved and reported to the Graduate School Executive Committee as of March 12, 1964.

The programs will be listed as Master of Science in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and as Master of Science in Physical Therapy.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Shirley McDonald
Principal Executive Secretary

MAR 5 1964

UNIVERSITY OF *Minnesota*

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*Seems some: check with
CPB by phone: if OK with
him, we make the change
& report to Ex. Comm*

MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455

March 4, 1964

Doctor Bryce Crawford, Jr.
Dean, Graduate School
321 Johnston Hall

Re: Degree of Master of Science in Physical Therapy

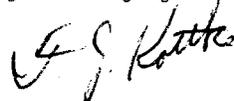
Dear Dean Crawford:

For more than twelve years a Master of Science Degree Program has been approved for qualified physical therapists. This degree has been set up under Plan A. This program is in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. However, when the program was established it went into the records of the Graduate School as a Master of Science in Physical Medicine. This results in a confusion of terminology since there is a Master of Science in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation for physicians which is a different program from the Master of Science in Physical Therapy for physical therapists.

A number of times I have been queried regarding the granting of a graduate degree in medicine to therapists who were not graduate physicians. I believe that it is generally understood throughout this country that a graduate degree in medicine implies that the person is a physician and that such a degree is a graduate degree beyond the M.D.

Therefore I would like to request that there be a change in the designation of the Master's degree program for physical therapists so that it be indicated as a Master of Science in Physical Therapy. This does not change the course content but brings the terminology into line with similar programs at other universities and ends the confusion which exists with the present terminology.

Very truly yours,



Frederic J. Kottke, M.D.
Professor and Head
Department of Physical Medicine
and Rehabilitation

FJK:bje

cc: C. P. Barnum, Prof.