

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GRADUATE SCHOOL

Minutes of the Executive Committee
Thursday, December 5, 1957
331 Johnston Hall

Present: Professors W. D. Beatty, Norman J. DeWitt, Stuart Fenton, Albert W. Frenkel, Lester E. Hanson, and Maurice B. Viischer; Deans Marcia Edwards and John G. Darley; Dean Theodore C. Blegen, presiding; Professor William McDonald by invitation for Item II; and Miss Davis, Secretary

- I. Dean Blegen reported several items of information: (1) The current Graduate School enrollment is 3600, an increase in actual numbers of more than 200 graduate students over a year ago. (2) The Social Science Research Council has announced a 1958 fellowship program (restricted to social science and psychology majors) for completion of doctoral dissertation. (3) The Conference Board of Associated Research Councils has issued a roster of visiting scholars from other countries available for appointments, lectures, etc. (4) In 1957 the Graduate School issued a Register of Ph.D.'s covering the period 1938-56. Now, the Department of Psychology has prepared a complete list of its Ph.D.'s from 1893 to 1957. The Dean reported that Professor Donald G. Paterson has been major adviser to 71 Ph.D.'s.
- II. Professor William McDonald presented further information on the proposed inter-university program for a Ph.D. in classical civilization, which he had first discussed before the Executive Committee on April 26, 1957. Voted that an inter-university Ph.D. program involving the Universities of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa be approved in principle, with the understanding that although the program offerings will be drawn from more than one and perhaps all three institutions, in each case the degree will be granted by a single participating university.
- III. Dr. Geylord Anderson's proposal that the Graduate School authorize a major in Public Health for the Ph.D. degree was referred to the Graduate Medical Group Committee for study and recommendation.
- IV. Dr. David Berrinhausen's proposal that Library Science be approved as a minor for the Ph.D. was referred to the Social Science Group Committee for recommendation.
- V. In order to be eligible for U. S. Public Health Service funds for employment of a full-time staff member (as co-ordinator of the program) and for fellowships, the staffs of psychology, child welfare, and education have together worked out plans for a Ph.D. program (with a major in either educational psychology or child welfare) designed to train school psychologists beyond the new two-year program leading to the certificate of specialist in education (for school psychological services).

Although no new Ph.D. major is involved and therefore technically Executive Committee authorization is not required, the committee voted to approve in principle the proposal for a program of training for school psychologists leading to the Ph.D., assuming approval of the three departments involved.

- VI. The Executive Committee discussed Professor Lloyd M. Short's recommendation that the Graduate School make it possible for candidates for the doctorate from foreign countries far removed from the United States to qualify for their degrees without returning to Minneapolis for their final oral examinations. It was the sense of the Executive Committee that, under proper safeguards, the final oral examination might be waived in such cases of extreme hardship for students. Thus, if the student's performance on preliminary written and oral examinations was without reservation, if the thesis reading committee unanimously approved the thesis, and if the holding of the final oral examination would work undue hardship, the major adviser might ask for special waiver of this examination, with the concurrence of the other two members of the thesis reading committee. Adjustments in such individual cases would then be left to the judgment of the Dean. While it was not deemed wise to give this policy widespread publicity, the Executive Committee felt that appropriate announcement of it might be made to the full members of the Graduate Faculty.
- VII. Professor Herbert Heaton of the Department of History has suggested the possible use of external examiners from other institutions for some of our doctoral dissertations. No formal action was taken but, with the concurrence of the Committee, Dean Blegen stated that if suitable cases were to come up he would welcome suggestions of appropriate outside readers.
- VIII. The attention of the Committee was called to several studies of Ph.D. problems:
- Dr. Darley brought out some of the important findings of Minnesota's study of its Ph.D.'s (July 1, 1935-June 30, 1949) which is discussed in A UNIVERSITY LOOKS AT ITS PROGRAM (1954). He also summarized the recent report of four graduate deans to the Association of Graduate Schools and, in more detail, the NEA report on teacher supply and demand in colleges and universities. The latter emphasizes the great length of time required to earn the Ph.D., failure to make appropriate use of women Ph.D.'s, the trend toward increasing use of part-time faculty, and inadequacy of internal "upgrading" programs for completion of degrees by junior faculty members. It points out that, because the supply of new college teachers with the Ph.D. is falling well behind ~~the~~ relation to increasing enrollments, the ratio of faculty members holding the Ph.D. will become increasingly unfavorable.
- IX. Dean Blegen touched briefly on certain problems relating to Adult Special registration, including transfers of credit to graduate records and a new and related proposal of the University Fees Committee for a revision in tuition.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS
MINNEAPOLIS 14

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

October 31, 1957

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Dean T. C. Blegen
Graduate School

Dear Dean Blegen:

I enclose a copy of that portion of the letter from Professor Edwin O. Stene, Visiting Professor at the University of the Philippines, which pertains to the matter of oral examinations for the doctorate. You remember I mentioned this to you at the Campus Club yesterday. I feel quite strongly that we should look toward some general policy and arrangement which would make it possible for candidates for the doctorate from foreign countries far removed from the United States to qualify for their degrees without returning to Minneapolis for their final oral examination.

Sincerely yours,



Lloyd M. Short
Chairman

Dean Blegen:

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I would be willing to
try such a scheme, if I had
3 more on the list. His final
thesis after all 1/100 - was
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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS
MINNEAPOLIS 14

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DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

December 12, 1957

Dean Theodore C. Blegen
Graduate School

Dear Dean Blegen:

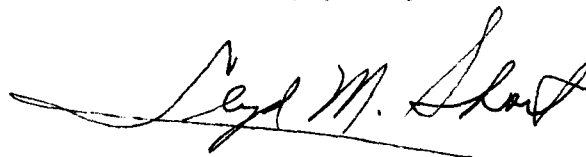
Thank you very much for informing me of the action of the Executive Committee of the Graduate School on December 5, 1957, with reference to the possible waiving of the final oral examination for candidates for the doctorate from distant foreign countries.

It seems to me this action is a wise one, and I feel sure there are proper safeguards to avoid any lowering of standards for the doctorate.

It may be several months before the Filipino student I had in mind will be able to complete his dissertation. In fact, he has made application to the Rockefeller Foundation for a grant which would enable him to take a leave of absence from his faculty position at the University of the Philippines. I do not know just how his arrangements for such leave can be made.

Thank you for your personal interest in the policy question I raised.

Sincerely yours,



Lloyd M. Short
Chairman

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University of the Philippines
Institute of Public Administration
Manila, Philippines
Postoffice Box 474

October 24, 1957

Professor Lloyd M. Short
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis

Dear Lloyd:

. . .
There is another matter, however, that I want to raise with you - and hence the letters to two of you, lest one should become much too long.

We now have on the IPA staff five young men who have completed all work for doctoral degrees except the theses. Whether or not the situation reflects an error on the part of Michigan, it is clear now that the IPA would gain considerably in prestige and enthusiasm if those men were Ph.Ds. Hence the application for extension of the Rockefeller grant includes an item to permit them to take turns at time off for individual research and writing.

Hesitancy on the part of the Foundation representatives, Evans and Buchanan, arose primarily from the question: "What about the final orals?" Dean Belmont and others cited cases where degrees have been given in absentia, but I had to add that certainly no commitment can be made until the thesis has been examined. It was made clear that Rockefeller Foundation cannot finance trips to the States to defend theses, and the only assurance that could be given by the University and the individuals concerned was that "we will do our best to meet that problem in one way or another."

Inquiries among faculty members here indicate that there are many near Ph.Ds. Some might never have finished in any case, but others undoubtedly gave up because they could not return to the States. Virtually all of those who have degrees - including two recent ones in public administration - wrote their theses while in the States. The Foundation is helping to keep Portugal and Samonte in the States long enough to finish. Yet I think that those who write theses here will produce more useful and more original works. Hence the dilemma.

In view of the large number of American faculty members on special assignments and the number who pass through the Philippines, for instance, might it be possible for American universities, or some related branches, to work out a cooperative plan whereby final examinations are given in or near the home country of the candidate? In this area, for example, there have been three visiting Ph.Ds in public administration since I arrived, there are others in Saigon and Bangkok, and there are Fulbright sociologists, historians and economists. Or a University with a contract program nearby might call the student there for his examination. All this of course would be after his committee at the degree-granting university has judged the thesis satisfactory.

There might still be exceptional cases where the final defense is waived completely, but such a decision must remain in doubt to the last minute. The other plan might be arranged tentatively in advance, and the prospect would certainly provide an added incentive to complete the thesis after one has returned to his home country.

I don't know exactly how this kind of plan might be developed. The problem is somewhat peculiar to the social sciences, because it is there that homeland field research takes on major importance. It might be difficult to convince a general graduate faculty of the value of such a step. Possibly the matter should be discussed first by political scientists and related groups at professional meetings.

In addition to Greg Francisco, our near PhDs have studied at Michigan, Southern California and Syracuse. I am going to write their advisers about the same matter.

. . .

Edwin O. Stene
Visiting Professor of
Public Administration

November 6, 1957

Professor Herbert Heaton, Chairman
Department of History
Ford Hall 205

Dear Herbert:

We have had a few individual instances of thesis readings by people outside our faculty, but we have never established any system for such scrutiny. I have myself served as a thesis reader for Columbia and one or two other universities in the East.

I have no objections in principle to the kind of practice evidenced in the document from the Australian National University. Apparently that institution has made the inclusion of a scholar from some other university very nearly a regular custom.

I am going to report this item to the Executive Committee of the Graduate School when it next meets and will invite a little discussion of the idea.

Sincerely yours,

Theodore C. Elegen
Dean

TCB/U