

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Minutes of the Executive Committee  
December 6, 1956  
331 Johnston Hall

Present: Profs. W. D. Beatty, W. M. Myers, A. O. C. Nier, N. T. Spratt, Jr., Dmitri Tselos, M. B. Visscher; Deans Marcia Edwards and J. G. Darley; Dean T. C. Blegen, presiding; and Miss Davis acting as secretary.

- I. Dean Blegen presented brief informational reports on Graduate School enrollment; Graduate School representation on the University Senate for 1956-57; research fund allotments and balances; Summer Faculty Research Appointments for 1957; and a forthcoming meeting scheduled for mid-December on research needs and areas. He also distributed copies of the annual announcement of fellowships and assistantships and reported that the Graduate School will shortly issue a register of the Ph.D.'s granted from July, 1938, through June, 1956. He referred briefly to the annual meeting of the Association of Graduate Schools held in November in Chicago.

Dr. Darley described the Graduate School's arrangement with University Microfilms of Ann Arbor, Michigan, for microfilm publication of our doctoral dissertations.

- II. The committee discussed the diversity of practice among departments with respect to the language requirement for the Master's degree, and also the problem of the foreign student who wishes to present either his native language or English as a substitute in fulfilling the Ph.D. language requirements or occasionally for the Master's degree.

Voted that the dean be authorized to appoint a committee to study language requirements for the Master's degree and the foreign language problem as it relates to foreign students in the Graduate School.

- III. Dean Blegen pointed out that it is becoming evident there are differences of opinion among the faculty as to the function of a Ph.D. minor. Is it to broaden the background or perspective of the student? Is it an ancillary field of research or potential research? Should it in some cases be more fundamental than the major? These and other aspects of the problem were discussed by the committee, including the question of the appropriate advising and control with respect to the Ph.D. minor.

Voted that the dean of the graduate school be authorized to set up a subcommittee to study the problems of the minor for the Ph.D.

- IV. Dean Blegen called attention to the increasingly heavy load on the graduate faculty that will accompany the expanding numbers of graduate students and degree candidates expected in the coming decade. It was suggested that possibly the Master's degree may have to be further routinized and it may ultimately be necessary to use the final written examination only and to dispense with the final oral examination.

- V. The question of whether the Graduate School bulletin and the Graduate Medical bulletin should be combined into one bulletin, beginning with the biennium 1958-60, was referred to the Medical Science Group Committee for study and recommendation.

A motion for adjournment was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret L. Davis  
Secretary