

MINUTES

Senate Committee on Educational Policy

March 10, 1988

Present: John Clark (chair), John Clausen, Jean Congdon, Roland Guyotte, Marla Johnson (staff), Steve Joul, Ian Maitland, Marvin Mattson, James Moller, Gary Nelsestuen, Gene Piche, Aron Pilhofer.

Guests: Tim Erickson, Minnesota Student Association

The minutes from the February 11th meeting were approved.

John Clark announced that Bob Meyers has accepted a position in Washington, D.C. and will leave the University in April. His SCEP replacement will begin serving at the next meeting. Bob has been a valuable and thoughtful contributor for SCEP. We will miss him and wish him well in his new position.

Spring Quarter Meeting Schedule

The next SCEP meeting will be held on Thursday, March 31st at 3:15-5:00 p.m. Since the Senate has an April 14th meeting scheduled, we will NOT meet on that day. A motion was made, seconded and passed to meet instead on Friday, April 15th, 1:15-3:00 p.m.

"I" - "F" Conversion Issue

After consultation with the Steering Committee, John Clark reported that SCEP should take formal action on this issue. A motion was made and seconded recommending that an I convert to an F after one quarter. (An additional half-quarter is involved for administrative processing.) An amendment to extend the time failed on a 6 to 4 vote. The vote on the original motion was 6 to 2 in favor. It was noted that individual arrangements can be made between faculty and students to lengthen this time period in unusual situations.

Classroom Hour/Credit Ratio

A motion was made and seconded which recommended that the Twin Cities campuses change from a credit module of 45 to 50 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

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On the 1:1 issue, the suggestion was made that SCEP support it and provide an opportunity for exceptions. A motion was made, seconded and passed, supporting in principle the 1:1 credit/hour ratio. Concern was expressed about how to administer this system. It was pointed out that each college's Curriculum Review Committee could take care of exceptions to the proposed policy. The suggestion was made not to debate this issue any longer but to request that individual colleges, MSA and other units advise SCEP as to how they would be affected by the proposed changes (1:1 credit/hour ratio; quarter to semester). It was noted that changing to a semester system might incorporate the principle of a 1:1 credit ratio issue.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to request more information from colleges and other units before reconsidering the issue at the April 28th meeting. It was requested that a representative of MSA present its position at that time. Gene Piche, Roland Guyotte, Aron Pilhofer and John Clark will draft a letter asking individual units to give their positions regarding support for a university-wide policy on the 1:1 issue, with implementation to be done at the college level.

March 31st Meeting

Reports will be presented on Study Abroad and Academic Priorities. New charges for SCEP involve the AIDS Task Force recommendations and the proposed centralizing of committees at the University. John Clark will appoint a subcommittee to work on the AIDS issue.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

University Senate Consultative Committee

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March 8, 1988

John Clark
Department of Sociology
909 Social Sciences
West Bank

Dear John:

I want to kill two birds with one stone with this letter. In addition to the letter I sent jointly to you and Shirley (which you have or will receive shortly), I also ask that SCEP take up the recommendation from the AIDS Task Force having to do with curricular materials. As with the other AIDS-related recommendations, if I can get this back in time to get it on the agenda of the May Senate meeting I would appreciate it.

In addition--and this may be strictly a formality--I want to refer to you the recommendations from the "Academic Priorities" document that pertain to educational policy. The three which your committee can probably take up immediately (if you have not done so already) are those having to do with length of class period, the relationship between credits and class hours, and grade inflation. The semester system we can wait a short while on, because by agreement with Roger Benjamin, Academic Affairs will forward to us a more specific recommendation about the change to semesters (including start and end dates, length of semesters, etc.).

On the semester system question, you should know that FCC promised Roger that if he forwarded to us the more detailed recommendation by the middle of March, we would have it on the agenda for action at the April or May meeting. So we have promised to expedite the matter.

Thanks for taking up all these matters. Maybe you will now need to schedule more 7:00 a.m. meetings.

Cordially,

W. Phillips Shively
Senate Consultative Committee



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March 8, 1988

John Clark, Chair, Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Shirley Clark, Chair, Senate Finance Committee

Dear John and Shirley:

change // I write to formally request that your committees address three of the recommendations contained in the report of the AIDS Task Force. The three recommendations are the ones having to do with the establishment of the coordinator's office, the conduct of evaluation research, and the conduct of a baseline survey on knowledge.

I will leave it up to the two of you to determine the extent to which, if any, your two committees wish to interact as you address the recommendations. The end result of your review and recommendations, which will come to the Senate Consultative Committee, will be to forward some recommendation(s) to the University Senate.

If at all possible, I would like to have your recommendations in a fashion timely enough that SCC might bring the matter to the Senate at its May meeting. If that proves not to be workable, we will delay the matter until the first meeting of fall quarter next year.

Thank you for your help.

Cordially,


W. Phillips Shively (AKA Phil)
W. Phillips Shively, Chair
Senate Consultative Committee

SASS Policy on Incompletes

Prior to the conversion of the A/N grading system to the A/F grading system, an I converted to an N if a grade was not assigned at the end of the next quarter in residence. This conversion actually took place about midway of the subsequent quarter. For example if a continuously enrolled student received an I for fall quarter that was not made up by the end of the winter quarter, the I was converted to an N about midway of the spring quarter unless the records office received a notice from the instructor to the contrary. SASS believes that the same policy should be used for the A/F system.

SASSC and SCEP agree that I's should convert to F's. Under University policy, an I grade represents a contract between instructor and student that defines how and when the work is to be completed. I's are not intended to be permanent marks on the record. If that were the case, the I would become an escape for unsatisfactory performance.

SASSC also believes that the timing of I conversion should remain the same. Extending the conversion further will increase the number that fall into another year. TA turnover, professors leaving, students transferring, etc., are difficulties that make it important for a student to make up an I grade immediately. It is not doing the student a favor to allow excess time for the I removal.

In cases where an I has converted to an F, the student can request the instructor to resubmit an I grade.

In summary, SASSC believes that a policy that converts I's to F's after one quarter is a positive influence to encourage completion of incomplete contracts before things become stale or the players change. It is not a policy that forces a student to receive an undeserved F.