

SENATE DOCKET

To the University Senate:

Your Committee on Business and Rules respectfully presents the following matters for your consideration at the third meeting of the Senate, May 21, 1931:

- I. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of February 19, 1931.
- II. Report of the Administrative Committee of the Senate.
- III. Report on Senate Fund Balance.
- IV. Report of the Committee on Education.
- V. Report of the Committee on Debate and Oratory for 1930-31.
- VI. Report of the Committee on Relations of the University to Other Institutions of Learning.

I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 19, 1931

II. REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE

1. Action Reported for Ratification

1. Report of the University Committee on Printing. It was voted to approve the following recommendation of the committee:

First, that each course for which special fees (such as laboratory, materials, or practice fees, music fees, etc.) have been approved by the Board of Regents, should carry the footnote "An additional fee of — is charged for this course" in each bulletin in which such a course is announced.

Second, that whenever changes are made in course numbers, course descriptions, etc., for these courses for which fees have been established by the Board of Regents, a formal notice of these changes must be filed with the Registrar's Office on the forms provided. The inclusion of new courses as special fee courses, and the addition of fees to other courses now being offered, will be referred by the Registrar to the President's Office for the necessary approval, and

Third, bulletin copy must be forwarded to the Registrar's Office to permit the necessary check for the fee announcement.

2. Actions Reported for Information

1. Final Examination Schedule. Attention was called to the fact that at the last Commencement Convocation the rule requiring members of the band to be present was not enforceable because of the fact that final examinations had been scheduled for the same period. It is the *opinion* of the group that in arranging the new examination schedule, no examination should be scheduled for the period of the Commencement exercise.

2. Mimeographed Material. Voted to approve for use in University classes: Practical forms in exposition. Price 50 cents, to be sold by the Engineer's Book Store.

III. REPORT ON SENATE FUND BALANCE

On February 20, 1931, each member of the University Senate was mailed a statement of receipts and expenditures and balance in connection with the surprise party on President Coffman. An additional bill paid since that date leaves a balance of \$16.31. Many suggestions have been received with regard to the disposition of this balance. Of these suggestions the majority favor the addition of this fund to the Coffman Educational Scholarship already established. It is therefore recommended for the consideration of the Senate that the balance of \$16.31 be added to the principal of the Coffman Educational Scholarship.

W. T. MIDDLEBROOK, *Treasurer*

IV. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

At a meeting called by the President on February 16, 1931, which was attended by the heads of departments and certain administrative officers, the various methods of administering Freshman English were discussed. It was suggested that a committee be appointed to study the question and the President referred it to the Senate Committee on Education, consisting of Professors Frederic Bass, Chairman, O. C. Burkhard, E. M. Freeman, R. A. Gortner, M. E. Haggerty, C. M. Jackson, J. B. Johnston, D. G. Paterson, and J. T. Tate, with the addition of Professors W. R. Myers, W. L. Prosser, E. B. Fischer, R. L. Dowdell, W. H. Bussey, C. A. Moore, Dora V. Smith, and Wylle B. McNeal.

Having considered the question, your Committee on Education presents for discussion the recommendations and suggestions contained in paragraphs 1-12 below. They relate to a proposed examination in English Composition to be given to students before the end of their sophomore year, the passing of this examination to be a substitute for the present requirement of passing a course in English Composition. Some members of the committee think that a second examination in English Composition should be given to students in their junior or senior year, but a majority of the committee thinks that the question of giving such a second examination should be considered not now, but at some later time, perhaps not until after we have had some experience with *one* required examination.

If the freshman courses in English Composition are made elective, as is recommended below, there may be an appreciable transfer of teaching load to other departments. The committee believes, however, that the enrollment in those composition courses will continue to be large and that no serious budget problem will arise in connection with transfer of teaching load. The committee has some figures which indicate that the cost of instruction in the freshman composition courses is relatively low and that therefore no saving of money will result from encouraging students to elect courses in other departments instead of courses in composition.

Recommendations:

1. That the passing of a *special examination* in English Composition be substituted for the passing of a *course* in English Composition in all curricula in which there is such a course requirement.

(Although the details of the examination to be used will require very careful study, it is the opinion of the committee that a test can be devised which will be entirely reliable for the broad purpose of identifying those students whose English should debar them from promotion. The examination should be given for one purpose only: not to test the student's knowledge of formal grammar or of any other subject, but to ascertain whether he is capable of expressing himself with a reasonable degree of correctness and efficiency.)

2. That the work of construction, supervising, and grading of that examination be done by a special committee of five or more to be appointed by the President of the University.

3. That a special fee be charged each student taking the examination.

(The fees collected ought to pay the expenses incurred by the examination committee; and perhaps the charging of a fee will tend to keep students from trying the examination when they are not well prepared.)

4. That the passing of the examination in English Composition be a *requirement for admission* to the Senior College of Science, Literature, and the Arts and to those professional schools, or special curricula within professional schools, which require for admission two years of college work.

(The professional schools concerned are those of Law, Medicine, Dentistry, Business, Education.)

5. That in those colleges which admit students directly from high school or with less than two years of college work and in which English is a requirement the passing of the examination in English Composition be a prerequisite for junior standing.

(The phrase "junior standing" will have to be defined for each college concerned. In a general way it implies (1) that a student who has "junior standing" has completed two full years of college work including all work specifically prescribed for those years in his curriculum; and (2) that a student who lacks "junior standing" has some of this freshman or sophomore work to make up and is not free to elect courses other than those regularly open to freshmen and sophomores unless given special permission to do so.)

6. That a student be allowed to take the examination at any time after the completion of a full year's work in college.

(A student who fails the examination will then have time to make adequate preparation and try it again before the end of his sophomore year.)

7. That there be offered by the General Extension Division a one-quarter "Tutoring" course, without college credit, to prepare students for the examination.

(There would probably be a demand for this course every quarter and in each term of the summer session. The course should be on a higher level than the present course in "sub-freshman" composition which should be for some students a prerequisite for the "tutoring" course.)

TWO—SENATE BROADSIDES

8. That the College of Science, Literature, and the Arts and the College of Agriculture offer the freshman courses (Composition 4-5-6, A-B-C and Rhetoric 1-2-3) for students who want to study English Composition on a college level.

(It is hoped that the new requirement in English Composition will make it possible to put those courses on a higher level. Those courses would differ from the "tutoring" course in that they would involve some study of English Literature, some training in literary appreciation, and some study of English style, as well as theme writing and training in the fundamentals of English Composition. There are many electives in the College of Science, Literature, and the Arts for those students who choose not to study English. But this question will arise in other colleges: What electives will students be required or permitted to take if they decide not to study English?)

9. That there be no exemption from the required examination in English Composition for those students of the College of Science, Literature, and the Arts who would be exempted from required English Composition under the present rules of that college.

(That exemption is now based on a "placement system" which determines each student's eligibility for admission to certain courses given by the Department of English.)

10. That the placement system mentioned in paragraph 9 be extended to other colleges whose students elect courses given by the Department of English of the College of Science, Literature, and the Arts.

11. That all students who enter the University with advanced standing from other institutions be required to take and to pass the Examination in English Composition.

(If a student comes with enough advanced standing to be admitted to the Senior College of Science, Literature, and the Arts or to one of the professional schools which require two years of college work for admission, he should be required to take and pass the examination within a time set by the college concerned; but if a student comes with a smaller amount of advanced standing so that his classification in the University is that of a freshman or sophomore, he should be required to pass the examination within the time limit set for freshmen and sophomores who enter this University as freshmen.)

12. That another function of the examining committee mentioned in paragraph 2 be the giving of special diagnostic and achievement tests to individual students when requested to do so by any of the students' work committees of the University.

(This recommendation is made on the assumption that some of the college faculties will want to give their students' work committees authority to deal with students who are reported by their instructors as habitually using poor English.)

O. C. BURKHARD,
E. M. FREEMAN,
R. A. GORTNER,
M. E. HAGGERTY,
C. M. JACKSON,
J. B. JOHNSTON,
D. G. PATERSON,
J. T. TATE,
W. R. MYERS,
W. L. PROSSER,
E. B. FISCHER,
R. L. DOWDELL,
W. H. BUSSEY,
C. A. MOORE,
DORA V. SMITH,
WYLLE B. MCNEAL,
FREDERICK BASS, *Chairman*

V. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DEBATE AND ORATORY FOR 1930-31

The following inter-collegiate activities in debate and oratory have been supervised during the current year by the Senate Committee on Debate and Oratory:

Date	Place	With	Team
1930 Oct. 27	Cyrus Northrop Auditorium	Cambridge University	Phillip Dybvig Robert M. Wilson
Dec. 11	Madison, Wis.	University of Wisconsin	Leon Boyd Ira Peterson Weldon Smith
Dec. 11	Old Library Auditorium	University of Iowa	George Haertel Elmer Andersen Phillip Dybvig
1931 Feb. 26	Madison, Wis.	University of Wisconsin	Ina Andersen Katherine O'Neill Dorothy Paulson
Feb. 26	Old Library Auditorium	University of Iowa	Lillian Gilliland Helen Paul Grigware Isabelle Gilliland
Mar. 3	Old Library Auditorium	University of Porto Rico	Milton Sax Elmer Anderson
Mar. 12	Old Library Auditorium	University of Illinois	Milton Sax Donald Larson Robert M. Wilson
Apr. 9	Columbus, Ohio	Ohio State University	Lawrence Vance Julius Coller Burnell Koolish

On Friday, May 8th, the annual contest of the Northern Oratorical League is being held in Madison, Wisconsin. Our representative is Mr. Burnell Koolish, a junior in the College of Science, Literature, and the Arts.

Respectfully submitted,
F. M. RARIG, *Chairman*

VI. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF LEARNING

1. Actions Reported for Ratification

1. *St. Thomas College, St. Paul.* Voted to recognize the senior college work of St. Thomas College in the case of candidates who are especially recommended and whose major work has been taken in one of the following fields: English, history, psychology and education, classical languages, and philosophy. It is understood that for the present this accrediting applies only to students transferring from St. Thomas College in 1931.

2. *Breck School, St. Paul.* Voted on recommendation of the inspector of secondary schools to drop Breck School from the list of accredited private secondary schools.

2. Actions Reported for Information

1. *Inspection of Private Secondary Schools.* Voted to approve the following recommendation for transmittal to the President:

In consideration of the following facts:

First. That of the fifty-eight private secondary schools on the University's accredited list, nineteen have sent none of their graduates to the University in the last six years, seventeen others have sent less than five per cent each year. Of those sending more than five per cent, two have sent from five to ten per cent; ten from ten to twenty per cent; and ten, more than twenty per cent.

Second. That the total cost of the frequent inspection of all of these schools, together with those which have applied for accrediting but have not been approved has limited the activities of the Committee and circumscribed the value of its inspections.

Third. That the Senate Committee on the Relation of the University to Other Institutions of Learning is convinced that a more thorough and intensive inspection is essential for the proper evaluation of the work of the secondary schools which it accredits, and

Fourth. That the new plan for admission to the University by examination provides adequately for those occasional cases of admission from the non-accredited schools.

It is recommended:

First. That after the expiration of the terms for which they are now accredited, only those private secondary schools which, during the preceding three years have sent annually at least an average of five per cent of their graduates to the University will be inspected for further accrediting at the expense of the University.

Second. That schools not included above who desire to be accredited and whose reports on buildings, equipment, courses of study, and teaching personnel, appear to meet the Committee's standards, may receive inspection for purpose of accrediting on paying to the University a fee for such inspection.

Third. That in no case shall the accrediting of such a school, if approved, be for a period in excess of three years.

The above report was approved at a meeting of the Administrative Committee of the Senate on January 7, 1931, and it was voted to recommend to the Board of Regents a fee for the inspection of private secondary schools. The amount of the fee to be left for recommendation from the Committee.

This fee was subsequently set at \$50.

R. R. SHUMWAY, *Chairman*