

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

TWIN CITIES CAMPUS ASSEMBLY MINUTES

April 14, 1988

The third meeting of the Twin Cities Campus Assembly was convened in 175 Willey Hall on Thursday, April 14, 1988, at 3:15 p.m. Checking or signing the roll as present were 96 voting members of the faculty, 30 voting members of the student body, one ex-officio, and 3 nonmembers. Vice Chair Charles Campbell presided.

I. MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 18
Action (2 minutes)

Approved

II. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS, 1988-89
Information

In the recent election to fill faculty vacancies on the Assembly Steering Committee, Warren Ibele (Institute of Technology) and J. Bruce Overmier (CLA) were elected for 3-year terms (1988-91). Continuing members are Mark Brenner (Agriculture), Shirley Clark (Education), Ronald Phillips (Agriculture), Kathleen Price (Law), and W. Phillips Shively (CLA).

Accepted

III. CALENDAR COMMITTEE
CALENDAR, 1989-1990
Information

The 1989-1990 Twin Cities campus calendar has been amended to add the following listing: Tuesday, February 27—Caucus Night: Classes dismissed.

WILLIAM VAN ESSEDELFT
Chair

Accepted

IV. ELECTION OF 1988-89 VICE CHAIR OF ASSEMBLY
Action (5 minutes)

The constitution provides that a Vice Chair shall be elected by the Twin Cities Campus Assembly at its first meeting in the spring quarter from among its members for a term of one year starting July 1, 1988.

postponed until the next meeting

**V. REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR
TWIN CITIES CAMPUS ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES**
**Action by the Faculty and Academic Professional Members of the
Assembly**
(10 minutes)

MOTION:

That the Faculty Assembly approve the slate of nominees to fill two 1988-91 and one 1988-89 vacancy on the Assembly Committee on Committees as follows:

MARIO BOGNANNO, Professor, Industrial Relations, Carlson School of Management. Member, University Senate, 1981-87. Member, Faculty Affairs Committee, 1981-84; Business and Rules Committee, 1972-78.

SHELLEY CHOU, Professor and Head, Neurosurgery, Medical School. Member, University Senate, 1982-87.

ARTHUR ERDMAN, Professor, Mechanical Engineering, Institute of Technology. Member, University Senate, 1986-89. Member, Physical Plant and Space Allocation Committee, 1986-89; Student Affairs Committee, 1979-82.

ANNE PICK, Professor, Institute of Child Development, College of Education. Member, University Senate, 1982-85. Member, Faculty Affairs Committee, 1983-86; Judicial Committee, 1981-82.

GEORGE SELL, Professor, Mathematics, Institute of Technology. Member, University Senate, 1987-90 and 1981-84. Member, Research Committee, 1987-90; Faculty Affairs Committee, 1979-85; University Committee on Biennial Request and Budget Review, 1979-80.

THOMAS SOULEN, Associate Professor and Head, Botany, College of Biological Sciences. Member, University Senate, 1982-85.

INFORMATION:

The Twin Cities Campus Assembly Bylaws specify that the Assembly shall elect by written ballot at its spring quarter meeting faculty/academic professional members to fill vacancies on the Assembly Committee on Committees. A slate of candidates shall be provided by a special nominating committee and from such other candidates as may be nominated by petition of 12 members of the Assembly. Petitions to nominate candidates not on the slate must be in the hands of the Clerk of the Assembly on the day before the meeting at which the election is to be conducted.

Other elected faculty/academic professional members of the committee whose terms continue at least through 1989 are Sheila Corcoran (Nursing), Thomas Scott (CLA), and George Shapiro (CLA).

**BRIAN JOB, Chair
CARL ADAMS
FRANK ENFIELD
MARIAN POUR-EL
PAUL QUIE**

Mario Bognanno and Thomas Soulen were elected to 3-year terms; Arthur Erdman, for a 1-year term.

VI. EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE
CLASS PERIOD
Action (15 minutes)

MOTION:

That the basic class period be changed from 45 to 50 minutes starting as soon as feasible but not later than fall quarter, 1989.

COMMENT:

At the request of the Assembly Steering Committee, the Educational Policy Committee has considered this issue over the past year. It has requested information from various student, faculty, and administrative groups. The great majority of opinion supports the educational policy objectives of re-establishing the 50-minute classroom period (the returning of about 10% of classroom contact time), which had been previously shortened to permit east-bank-westbank movement between classes.

The 50-minute class period is now used at eight of the ten Big Ten and University of California campuses. (Indiana's class periods are 45 minutes and Ohio State's, 48 minutes.)

A 15-minute passing time will be maintained between classes. (A frequently suggested scheme is one based on the convergence of the hour and minute hands on a clock; thus classes would begin at 7:35 a.m., 8:40 a.m., 9:45 a.m., and so forth.)

An identical recommendation has also been made after careful study by central administration (*Academic Priorities*, February 1988, p. 9).

JOHN P. CLARK
Chair

Approved

**VII. EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE
STUDENT ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**GRADE CHANGE
Action (20 minutes)**

MOTION:

That, in regard to "Incompletes," the policy be that, unless a grade is assigned at the end of the next quarter of residence, the "I" convert to "F."

COMMENT:

The Student Academic Support Services Committee and the Educational Policy Committee agree that "I" should convert to "F." 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" is not intended to be a permanent mark on the record. If that were the case, the "I" would become an escape for unsatisfactory performance.

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.

Both committees believe that the timing of "I" conversion should remain the same. Extending the conversion further will increase the number that fall into another year. Teaching assistant 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. The two committees believe that a policy that converts an "I" to an "F" 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."

JOHN P. CLARK, Chr.
Educational Policy Committee

RICHARD L. JONES, Chr.
Student Academic Support Services Committee

Approved

VIII. INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS COMMITTEE

A. INTERIM REPORT

Information

This past quarter our committee has been working on several projects important to the successful operations of our intercollegiate athletic programs. We have modified the Guidelines for Recruiting Tendered Student-Athletes so that they better reflect the availability of information on the academic potential of student-athletes. In some cases, high schools have been unwilling to submit certain information that the previous version of the policy required before offering a tender. Copies of the revised document will be available at the Assembly meeting.

A second item under discussion and one requested by the Task Force is a Student-Athlete Conduct Code. This policy statement will be finalized during spring quarter and will be available at the next Assembly meeting.

Finally, we are extremely proud of the academic accomplishments of some of our outstanding athletes. To date we have learned of eight male and eight female athletes who have been named to All-Conference Academic Teams. These individuals are on four men's and three women's teams of winter sports.

Accepted

B. ATHLETES, RECRUITING GUIDELINES

Information (5 minutes)

It shall be an ACIA guideline that recruiting procedures for student-athletes include specific attention to their having the academic preparation thought necessary to persist to graduation at this University. To implement this guideline the following procedures will be followed:

1. The Athletic Department shall keep coaches and their recruiters informed of the University's academic requirements and the expected performance levels of students. Coaches shall introduce this information into their general recruiting plans and procedures and their judgments of tender offer requests.
2. The academic credentials of prospective tendered student-athletes shall be evaluated by the academic counselor for the coach prior to the campus visit (if possible) or, failing that, before the issuing of the tender. Academic credentials would normally include a recent transcript, ACT/SAT score and core curriculum information.
3. The academic counselor shall interview prospective tendered student-athletes who visit the campus and shall prepare a written evaluation for the coach about the prospect's academic potential.
4. Although the head coach plays a major role in recruiting student-athletes who have the academic preparation necessary to persist to graduation at this University, the Athletic Director's signing the tender request form certifies her/his ultimate responsibility for the implementation of these ACIA guidelines.
5. In some instances it may not be feasible to carry out some aspect of these guidelines. The Athletic Director has authority to make exceptions. A record of these exceptions will be kept and incorporated into an "Annual Exceptions Report on the Recruiting of Student-Athletes." Each case shall be reported in which a prospective student-athlete either visited campus before an academic counselor had evaluated her/his transcript, or the coach had not been presented with an evaluation of the prospective student's academic potential by the counselor as a result of a personal interview with her/him during her/his campus visit, or a tender was issued (whether accepted or not) before the appropriate academic credentials had been reviewed.

The "exceptions" report will be submitted by each Athletic Director annually, in September, with appropriate comments to ACIA.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 1988

Adopted by ACIA, February 11, 1988

DEON STUTHMAN
Chair

Accepted

IX. OLD BUSINESS

none

X. NEW BUSINESS

none

XI. ADJOURNMENT

ABSTRACT

The Twin Cities Campus Assembly was called to order by Vice Chair Charles Campbell at 3:15 p.m. in 175 Willey Hall following an open faculty forum on the state of the University. The minutes of the last meeting were ruled approved with no objection from the Assembly.

Vice Chair. W. Phillips Shively, professor of political science and chair of the Steering Committee, announced that the election of next year's vice chair would be held over until the next meeting.

Committee on Committees election. Brian Job, associate professor of political science and chair of the nominating committee, presented a slate of six faculty names from which three would be elected to fill next year's vacancies on the Committee on Committees. Balloting followed, and the meeting continued.

Class period. John Clark, professor of sociology and chair of the Educational Policy Committee, presented a motion to increase the class period from 45 to 50 minutes. He indicated his committee had solicited input from administrators, faculty members, and students, and had surveyed some peer institutions, and agreed that it was educationally desirable to return to the 50-minute hour. Proponents said the ten percent more contact time between students and faculty was desirable and would make the University compatible with many other institutions. The committee did not believe its responsibility extended to making specific recommendations as to the timing of each period, although the recommendation, in some people's words, when the little hand and the big hand are together as a starting time is persuasive to some, he said. A change would not create significant problems for the scheduling office, he reported. Edward Ney, regents' professor of astronomy, opposed the change, calling it a "damn, dumb idea," especially the idea involving the big and little hands of the clock. For one thing, the faculty should get an 11.1% increase, he said. For another, he showed that the big-hand, little-hand clock "algorithm" would not work after 11:55 a.m. without, as he put it, using an astronomer's practice of adding leap minutes so that five minutes would have to be added at noon. In a light-hearted vein, he said, the solution could be arrived at through relativity (which he knew everyone understood) by having the students' clock indicate 40 minutes and the professor's clock indicate 50. By putting the students in a Lorentz frame which is traveling at a velocity of .4359 times the speed of light, at the end of 50 minutes by the professor's clock the students would be 240 million miles away, beyond the orbit of Mars, but their clocks would indicate the 40 minutes were up. He suggested an amendment to require taking attendance if the proposal passed. His remarks were applauded at their conclusion.

Mr. Shively reported that the Steering Committee had agreed informally to support the change with no recommendation as to implementation. The committee thought there would be very little inconvenience to faculty or students. The motion was then approved by a wide margin. (At the end of the session, Steve Boland, student, made an informal motion to express the sense of the Assembly that classes should not begin before 8:00 a.m. Informed by Acting Parliamentarian James Connolly, professor of rhetoric, that there is no such thing as an informal motion, the chair simply encouraged further discussion under "New Business." Mr. Shively said he informally supported the informal motion. He said that early classes, where they had to be arranged by the scheduling office, were usually introductory courses. Mr. Campbell observed that the intensity of feelings might be higher if the discussion were held winter quarter. President Sauer said it was his experience at Michigan State that people quickly learned schedules even though they were at different times each hour, without concern for the big and little hands.)

Grade change. Mr. Clark introduced a recommendation to provide that a grade of "Incomplete" remaining on the record until the next quarter would be converted to "F." The Student Academic Support Services Committee, he said, favored the change, indicating that it was a natural consequence of the switch from the "A/N" system to the "A/F" system. Some students objected, he said, because a student not realizing the consequences might fail to communicate with the faculty member. The committee advised that the general policy be published as widely as possible, and they were reassured that an inadvertent conversion could be undone easily on the initiative of the professor. The important educational notion, he concluded, is that an "Incomplete" is to be removed, to be dealt with as soon as possible after the end of the quarter, and not be allowed to drag on inordinately. Mr. Shively reported that the Steering Committee in general favored the motion.

Stephen Wilbers, director of CLA student academic support services, reported that his college in moving to an official GPA had reinstated the "F" grade with a related proposal that an "Incomplete" would not convert automatically to an "F." The thinking was that a distinction was needed between records of registration and assessment of academic performance, and an "Incomplete" converting to an "F" violated that principle. Also, the "N" was abolished and replaced by an "F" and, he said, so there could be a clear assessment of academic performance, the CLA Assembly had recommended that the "Incomplete" not lapse and that after one year neither the instructor nor the department would be obligated to change the grade. It would become a continuing entry on the transcript. CLA faculty was reminded that it was important not to issue an "Incomplete" where there had not been some conversation with the student. These policies, he said, are different from those of other colleges and the CLA Assembly was opposed to the present proposal.

Asked about the effect of a change of residence, Mr. Clark said that the "Incomplete" would remain until the student was once again in residence. The motion was then approved.

Intercollegiate Athletics Committee. Deon Stuthman, professor of agronomy and chair of the committee, called attention to the revised guidelines for recruiting tendered student-athletes that had been distributed at the meeting. He represented the revisions as coming closer to reality in terms of the kinds of information provided by high schools to help identify the academic potential of athletes that visit the campus. If followed the result should make for improvement in the academic performance of those in athletic programs because the University would be bringing into those programs in the first place people with better academic potential. Then, with continued effectiveness in academic counseling, there should be a recognizable improvement in academic performance and an increase in the graduation rate. He went on to report that the GPA for men and women athletes averaged 2.76, a vast improvement over a couple of years ago. (The overall University GPA was 2.8.) He said that all those who had been working to improve performance were very pleased. He cited the notable achievements of the women's teams in particular. He then reported on the status of the three students who had been exempt from attaining a 2.0 average last quarter: one had achieved 3.46 and the others were above 2.0, so the committee thought that the experiment had been successful. Finally, he said, the search was proceeding for a compliance officer who would work with departments to ensure that both athletic and academic rules were being followed and who would be charged with the educational aspects of those rules so that student-athletes would be informed of the eligibility regulations. Asked how the plan for con-

trolled study halls was proceeding, Mr. Stuthman reported that all freshmen and perhaps sophomores participate in mandatory study halls. Others with academic problems are encouraged, sometimes very strongly, to participate in the program, he said. In addition, his committee conducts academic audits annually for all of the teams and offers advice for those individuals who are experiencing particular difficulty.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

MARILEE WARD
Abstractor