

Minutes*

**Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Friday, March 8, 1994
2:15 - 3:00
Dale Shephard Room, Campus Club**

Present: Kenneth Heller (chair), Anita Cholewa, Thomas Clayton, James Cotter, Sue Donaldson, Megan Gunnar, Carla Phillips, William Van Essendelft, Tim Swierczek, Darren Walhof

Regrets: Craig Bursch, Robert Johnson, Manuel Kaplan, Michael Pawlicki, Gayle Graham Yates

Absent: Darwin Hendel

[In these minutes: Approval of Morse-Alumni Award Winners]

Professor Heller convened the meeting at 2:15 and noted that the sole agenda item was review and approval of the nominees to win the Morse-Alumni Awards. In Professor Graham-Yates's absence, Mr. Swierczek read the report of the Morse-Alumni Committee.

One Committee member then inquired about the one policy recommendation in the report, that information about the average or required course load for members of the nominee's department be included as well as that information about undergraduate courses be placed in the context of the department's required or elective course offerings. The reason for this recommendation is that teaching loads vary among departments; the committee is helped by knowing how many courses a nominee may teach in comparison to his or her peers.

Asked about representation from the other campuses, another of the Morse-Alumni committee members said there is no effort to ensure distribution across units.

The criteria used by the committee provide wide latitude for evaluating credentials, it was said, and go beyond consideration of teaching quality. A winner could be, at the extremes, someone who ONLY teaches--or someone who virtually NEVER teaches, but who might have made an extraordinary contribution to undergraduate education in some other way. Most candidates fall in between those two extremes and the committee is empowered to make judgments.

Members of the nominating committee commented that a number of the dossiers were "slick," including photographs, and that such dossiers are not particularly well received. "Clarity and content in the service of economy" are the primary factors the committee considers, it was said. A couple of the nominations were "sloppy."

Committee members then discussed each of the winning candidates with members of the nominating committee and the general quality of the nominees. Following that discussion, the Committee

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unanimously approved the slate of nominees.

Committee members also recommended that the University do a better job of exploiting the public relations value of the tremendous educational activities of these faculty.

Professor Heller then extended the thanks of SCEP to the members of the nominating committee for their work. He adjourned the meeting at 3:00.

-- Gary Engstrand

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