

Minutes
Senate Committee on Educational Policy
November 21, 1984

Present: Lael Gatewood, Lawrence Goodman, William Hanson, Gerald Kline, Gretchen Kreuter, Elaine May, Robert McCollister, David Thompson, John Wallace (ex officio), Gloria Williams, Mary Young.

Absent: Jeffrey Frey, Van Gooch (UMM), Andrew Lee, Tom Lussenhop, David Lutz.

1. Minutes. The minutes were approved as distributed.
2. Goodman Memorandum. A draft memorandum was submitted by Lawrence Goodman, dealing with the issue of course proliferation as it might occur as a consequence of a change to the semester system. Discussion followed.

One of the arguments that has been made in favor of a change from quarters to semesters is that it might provide greater opportunities for studying a subject in depth. The proliferation of one- and two-credit courses that might occur would not be in the spirit of that goal. Gerald Kline suggested that a broad policy statement from SCEP would be more desirable than a statement addressing only one issue. David Thompson urged that SCEP go on record stating that it wants a new curriculum to emerge from a change from quarters to semesters. As part of this, SCEP should set forth guidelines about what such a curriculum should include, what role electives should play, and what should be the proper balance between breadth and depth.

To do this would mean re-working the Goodman memorandum and including some additional material and a preamble. Gerald Kline agreed to make such modifications and then submit the revised document to the Senate Consultative Committee (SCC), and to Betty Robinett's Task Force Committee on the Semester System. SCEP will ask SCC what they think is the appropriate next step to take.

John Wallace said that Associate Vice President Robinett and the Deans are very sympathetic to the concerns SCEP has raised and that they too see the proposed change as an opportunity for significant curricular change and for improving the quality of education.

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3. International Education. Gerald Kline said there had been a request from the Senate Committee on International Education that SCEP address the issue of exchange agreements. He will circulate the materials provided, so that members may decide at the next meeting whether or not SCEP should take this up.
4. Student Representation on Senate. In February, a resolution will come before the Senate to reduce the number of students represented there. Is this an educational policy issue?

Elaine May asked why the resolution had been proposed. Gerald Kline replied that the argument for reducing the number of students was that they often did not attend and didn't contribute significantly to the work of the Senate. William Hanson observed that even if students were excluded from the Senate, they would remain on other committees, such as SCEP.

Elaine May said it is clearly an educational policy issue, related to the educational atmosphere at the University. David Thompson agreed: perhaps the educational question to ask is why students don't participate.

John Wallace suggested that someone needs to devise a strategy to get students to participate, not remove them from the Senate.

It was decided that John Turner and Pat Swan, the authors of the resolution to exclude students, should be invited to the next SCEP meeting.

5. Consideration of Task Force Reports (Continued). At the last SCEP meeting, the recommendations of the Task Force Report on the Scholarly Activity of the Faculty had been examined. In concluding this discussion, SCEP members again expressed their concern about the non-endorsement of the recommendation on re-training of faculty, and about the ways in which financial aid is allocated to the graduate school. Lael Gatewood added that the part-time student is also an important issue: the present tuition structure is extremely hard on the part-time graduate student, she observed.

Task Force Report on the International Character of the University. Material from Dario Menanteau was distributed. Concern was expressed about the meaning of "internationalizing the curriculum," one of the recommendations from the Report. SCEP agreed that this is clearly an educational issue, and must go on its agenda. Study abroad should be taken up.

6. Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held on December 5 at 3:15 p.m. in room 404, Coffman Memorial Union.

Professors Turner and Swan will be first on the agenda (15 minutes).

The Gatewood Report will be discussed, and SCEP members were asked to read it carefully in advance of that meeting.

The revised Goodman Memorandum will be discussed.

The Root-Fenton matter will be tabled.

7. Next quarter's agenda. A strategy will be developed for addressing the Task Force recommendations that have been identified as relevant to issues of educational policy.