

Minutes
Senate Committee on Educational Policy
February 27, 1985

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lael Gatewood, Van Gooch, Lawrence Goodman, William Hanson, Gerald Kline (chair), Gretchen Kreuter (secretary), David Lutz, Robert McCollister, John Wallace (ex-officio), Gloria Williams, Mary Young

MEMBERS ABSENT: Andrew Lee, Tom Lussenhop, Elaine May

Minutes: The corrected minutes of January 30 and the minutes of February 13 were distributed.

President's focus document: was the principal item discussed. Gerald Kline pointed out that the document represented a pulling-together of ideas and data that have emerged from the Planning Process of the past several years. SCEP took up the following proposals:

Change in ratio of graduates to undergraduates. Drops in undergraduate enrollment will occur anyway because of demographics, Gerald Kline pointed out.

Will graduate enrollment decline, too? That is an issue not addressed in the focus document. William Hanson pointed out that there's no other four-year institution in the metro area that does what the University of Minnesota does. Gerald Kline noted, a propos of refining the University's mission, that state universities may be encroaching on Twin Cities area and clientele.

John Wallace noted that some of the implications aren't altogether clear. Will only better-qualified students apply here? Demographic upturn hasn't been factored in. Perhaps when an upturn occurs in the '90's a new four-year public university will be in order.

Should General College degree programs be eliminated? Then, says Kline, General College becomes an easy back door entry point for medium-range students unless it becomes a remedial unit. John Wallace noted that students who are deficient in one area may be strong in others.

Eliminate two-year programs except Crookston and Waseca? Gerald Kline says this is a political, not an educational issue at Crookston and Waseca.

Eliminate University Without Walls: SCEP agreed it was an acceptable decision.

Increase and unify entrance standards? Lawrence Goodman asked how this might be done. Some requirements aren't appropriate for all colleges. Gerald Kline replied that this means there is some minimum every entering student should know.

Coordinate lower-division efforts? John Wallace pointed out that consolidation is now going on where it would have good educational results. No separate lower-division faculty is contemplated.

The chair summarized the discussion: SCEP has concern about General College. SCEP supports elimination of University Without Walls. SCEP strongly supports proposals for unifying and increasing standards, and wondered whether a coordinated lower division might involve only a closer monitoring of existing liberal arts requirements?

Professional Education

Should the School of Management offer only graduate education in the long run? SCEP raised a number of questions: What about shared courses? Where do present undergraduates come from and go to? Are we helping industry?

College of Education: Graduate only?

(20% of state's teachers are trained here as undergraduates.)

Nursing. Reduce? Will SUS programs fulfill needs?

IT enrollments: Cap enrollments?

DVM: reduction because of UW DVM school.

Medical residency program hasn't been discussed by faculty.

Critical in the success of these reductions is a change in the funding formula.

Gerald Kline urged that the committee look at the secondary effects of these proposals. Perhaps they are creating two universities -- one that's "rational," based on efficiency, and one that isn't.

The discussion will be continued at the next meeting.