

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Graduate School
Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, May 8, 1975
11:30 a.m. 626 Campus Club

Present: Professors Benjamin Bayman, Edward Foster, Donald Otterby, Peter Reed (for Betty Robinett), Joel Samaha (by invitation), Robert Schreiner; Graduate Student Representatives: John Chesnutt, David Eckholm, Harriet Lewis; Deans Andrew J. Hein, M. Harry Lease, Kenneth C. Zimmerman; Staff: Beverly Miller, DeeAnn Olsen; Dean Kenneth H. Keller (presiding), Bonita Sindelir (recording).

I. FOR INFORMATION

A. Graduate School and Bush Fellowships

Dean Keller reported on the progress of the distribution of the available funds: 280 fellowships were offered in the first round of competition; from these offers, Minnesota received approximately 170 acceptances. This number of fellowships accepted in the first round leaves funds available to offer 50 additional one-year fellowships for the next year. The pool of applicants will be limited to Ph.D. students. A program does, however, have the option of nominating one newly entering student for a renewable award in lieu of 3 nominations for the one-year awards. Dean Keller asked for Executive Committee consensus on whether the former second-level fellowship committee should consider the distribution of these fifty awards or whether they should be handled by the administrative staff of the Graduate School. A motion was made, seconded and carried that the Graduate School staff handle this selection.

B. Legislative Request

The preliminary recommendations from the House for funding for both research and fellowships in the 1975-77 biennium matched the Governor's recommendation. The Senate made higher recommendations both years for research and increased the recommendation for the second year for fellowships. The fellowship money is to be part of the recurring budget, not a state special. By spending some of the legislative money now, the Graduate School will be able to balloon the Bush funds to keep the program operating at a uniform level. The General Research Fund will be increased for the first time in the last 4 years. Since inflation has eroded the purchasing power of the money allotted during these years and some other external sources of seed money research support have disappeared,

the additional appropriation, while welcome, will only bring us back to the effective operating level of 1972-73.

II. FOR ACTION

A. Master of Arts in Criminal Justice Studies

Professor Foster introduced this proposal which has been revised after consideration by the Social Sciences Policy and Review Committee on March 6 and amended slightly before receiving the Committee's approval at the April 24 meeting. Professor Samaha told the Executive Committee that pressure for the establishment of this degree had come from the state criminal justice agencies. He wanted to emphasize that this was not to be a professional degree but rather an arts degree with emphasis on criminal policy and philosophy. The program implementation is dependent on additional legislative funds but Professor Samaha said that the recommendations looked positive. Professor Foster emphasized that the composition of the potential student body for the program would be people who were working part-time, had experience in the field and would be working for advancement in their positions. A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Professor Samaha was questioned about the department's ability to provide courses that they have described for the program. He replied that it was understood with the Liberal Arts dean that there would be a reduction in undergraduate instruction in order to implement the new program.

A vote was called on the motion to approve the proposal and was passed unanimously.

B. Admissions Policy Proposal from Physical Sciences Policy and Review Committee

Professor Bayman, speaking for the Physical Sciences Policy and Review Committee, briefly described the proposal (a copy is attached to the minutes) and the type of student who would qualify for this special consideration. Professor Foster asked if a conditional admission would not be sufficient and was told that it is extremely difficult to control special restrictions under that kind of admission. Professor Foster also wanted to know if the Graduate School Admissions Office would have control over the program.

Dean Keller called attention to the second page of the proposal which says, "The recommendation of the committee will be forwarded to the Dean of the Graduate School . . ."

Dean Lease asked how a policy of this sort could be confined to one field. Dean Keller responded that it was because only one area had considered this policy; other committees might want to consider it as well. Professor Schreiner expressed agreement that the policy couldn't be limited to one area and said that he thought more specific criteria would have to be set out than simply grade point average. Professor Bayman replied that professional accomplishment would be a heavily weighted criterion. Dean Hein noted that the first paragraph seemed to imply an open admission policy. Dean Keller said that while he was not in complete agreement, he did feel that paragraph 4 was a positive factor in establishing criteria other than grades.

Professor Reed asked if standards for these students would differ from those applied to regular graduate students and what the estimated number of students might be. Professor Bayman responded that they estimated that students admitted under this policy would be few and far between. While standards might be different from those applied to regular students, they would be established beforehand. Dean Keller added that students in the regular program would have less stringent standards.

Referring to the second paragraph, Dean Hein pointed out that most students would apply first for a regular degree program and seek out the special admission only when they discovered they were not admissible under regular standards. He warned that there would be some problem in assuring equal access to this opportunity. If information about the program comes only through personal interviews, a geographic bias would be injected into the program. Dean Zimmerman expressed concern over the third paragraph stating that twelve quarter credits or 4 courses will be transferrable to a degree program. Assuming an implied "whichever is greater", a student could complete a good share of the required credits for the graduate program prior to a change from the coursework only status to degree candidacy.

Professor Foster expressed his opposition to establishing a separate way into the Graduate School that will be open to only a few students. He felt that all applicants needed to be informed of the possibility. Professor Bayman thought it would be sufficient

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to have the option clearly stated in the Graduate School Bulletin. Professor Schreiner said that the proposed admission policy looked like a great deal of effort to be expended for a few students.

A vote was called on the motion before the Committee and failed with only one "aye" vote.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be June 5, 1975 at 11:30 a.m. in room 626 of the Campus Club.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

Department of Electrical Engineering
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

March 13, 1975

Professor Benjamin Bayman, Chairman
Physical Science Policy and
Review Committee
414a Physics Department
Minneapolis East Bank Campus

Dear Professor Bayman:

As a consequence of the discussion which took place at the Physical Sciences Policy and Review Committee Meeting of 6 March 1975, the ad hoc committee concerned with changes in graduate admission policies wishes to forward a formal proposal for approval by the Policy and Review Committee and submission to the Graduate School Executive Committee. The following explicit statement of admissions policies incorporates the objectives and safeguards which we feel should deal with the various problems outlined in our report of 19 February 1975:

- (1) Students whose unqualified or conditional admission to a graduate degree program is not deemed advisable may be permitted to apply for admission to the Graduate School in a Course Only status. Reasons for this action would include such examples as an undergraduate record which does not conform to subsequently demonstrated performance, training in a field which is related - but not identical - to the one for which the student is applying, or a degree of some years' standing in a technical field.
- (2) Applicants for Course Only status shall indicate this fact on the Graduate School admission form, rather than stating a degree objective. In the case of problematical undergraduate records, further supporting documents and a personal interview may be requested by the Admissions Committees of the appropriate graduate field.
- (3) A maximum of twelve quarter credits of work or four courses taken in Course Only status will be transferrable to a degree program should the student desire to change to degree candidacy.
- (4) Application for change from Course Only status to degree candidacy must be made within one calendar year of original admission. This application will be submitted to the admissions committee of the field and a decision will be based on the

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following factors:

- (a) Academic record
- (b) Written evaluation of applicant's class performance by members of the graduate faculty
- (c) Written evaluation of applicant's potential by the adviser or other appropriate members of the graduate faculty
- (d) Results of a written or oral examination as deemed appropriate by the admissions committee.

The recommendation of the committee will be forwarded to the Dean of the Graduate School by the Director of Graduate Study. If admission is ultimately approved, the credits earned under the limitation of (3), above, may be included on a graduate program. If not, then the student may continue in the Course Work Only status by maintaining the minimum performance standards specified for all graduate students.

Sincerely,



Allen Nussbaum
Professor
Director of Graduate Study

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