

Minutes\*

**Senate Committee on Educational Policy**  
**Wednesday, October 16, 1996**  
**1:00 - 1:45**  
**Room 440 Social Sciences**

Present: Laura Koch (chair), Anita Cholewa, Elayne Donahue, Gordon Hirsch, Judith Martin, Kathleen Newell, W. Phillips Shively, William Van Essendelft, Gayle Graham Yates

Regrets: Avram Bar-Cohen, Thomas Johnson, Robert Leik

Absent: Darwin Hendel

Guests: Elizabeth Grundner (Office of the Registrar)

[In these minutes: Mpls/St. Paul class starting times; University holidays; miscellany]

**1. Minneapolis and St. Paul Class Schedule**

Professor Koch convened the meeting at 1:00 and reported that she had heard from several individuals about problems caused for students because the classes on Minneapolis and St. Paul do not have staggered starting times. As a result, students must either waste a period between classes, as they go from Minneapolis to St. Paul or vice versa, or students leave early and arrive late to classes when they schedule back-to-back classes on the two campuses. It is not clear how many students this affects, but it appears to be quite a number.

Ms. Grundner reviewed the history of staggered classes, and noted that the staggering had been eliminated recently because SCEP had received information that the St. Paul campus wanted to be on the same schedule as Minneapolis.

Committee members discussed the issues; Provost Shively pointed out a number of factors that might argue for changing the schedule so that classes are once again staggered between the two campuses, including bus scheduling, impediments to course access, and efficient use of student time.

The Committee also discussed with Ms. Grundner how classes would be scheduled, were Minneapolis and St. Paul to have staggered starting times. One option would be for Minneapolis classes to start at 8:00 and St. Paul classes to start at 8:30, with the option for St. Paul to offer some classes at 7:30. Another might be to move back to 4:30 St. Paul classes that would otherwise begin at 5:30, thus condensing the class schedule by one hour on the St. Paul campus.

It was unanimously voted that Professor Koch consult with the deans of the St. Paul colleges, and others she deems appropriate, and make a decision about whether SCEP recommends a change in the

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class schedules for Spring Quarter. [Subsequent to the meeting, after consultation, Professor Koch recommended that there NOT be a change for this Spring Quarter, but that the issue be studied more carefully with an eye to making a change effective Fall Quarter, 1997.]

## **2. University Holidays**

Professor Koch then reported that the President's Office had asked the Committee to take up the question of why the University opts not to have Columbus Day as a holiday, but does choose other holidays?

Ms. Grundner reported that in Fall of 1964, the University recognized Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, and both presidential holidays. By 1969, it no longer recognized any of them, and added the Martin Luther King holiday a number of years later. Only once in recent years (1981) has the University recognized Columbus Day as a holiday.

After brief discussion, the Committee concluded it wished to offer no recommendations to change the recognized University holidays.

## **3. Responsibility Center Management**

Professor Koch said the Committee needs to act on RCM, but the brevity of this meeting precludes adequate discussion. She noted that there are "grave concerns" about the impact of RCM on educational issues, and urged Committee members to re-read the documents before the next meeting.

## **4. A Personnel Matter**

The Committee took up a personnel matter, and after discussion, authorized Professor Koch to act on the conclusions.

## **5. Policy on Credits**

A policy providing that colleges may determine which courses it will accept for credit was brought to the attention of the Committee; Dr. Zetterberg has inquired whether or not the policy means what it says and if it should be reviewed. The Committee was uncertain about Dr. Zetterberg's concern, noting that the policy provision in question is routinely enforced, and agreed that his query should be clarified.

Professor Koch then adjourned the meeting at 1:45 in order that the Committee could attend the Twin Cities Campus Assembly meeting and President's State of the University address.

-- Gary Engstrand

University of Minnesota