

Minutes*

Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Wednesday, April 15, 1998
1:00 – 3:00
Room 238 Morrill Hall

Present: Laura Coffin Koch (chair), Darwin Hendel, Gordon Hirsch, Judith Martin, Adam Miller, Kathleen Newell, Tina Rovick, William Van Essendelft

Regrets: Avram Bar-Cohen, Elayne Donahue, Gayle Graham Yates, Thomas Johnson, Robert Leik, Jessie Jo Roos, Craig Swan

Absent: Kevin Nicholson, Palmer Rogers

[In these minutes: policy revisions]

Policy Revisions

Professor Koch convened the meeting at 1:00 and turned directly to the policy revisions that had been suggested by the Senate Consultative Committee and by SCEP members.

-- Additional language should be considered as policy in the Assembly item concerning academic probation; Professor Koch will introduce an amendment on the floor.

-- The proposal for staggered classes will be on the Assembly agenda; Professor Koch will ask for two straw votes: one on whether to stagger classes, and one on whether to begin Minneapolis classes at 7:45. The concerns are that faculty may not have access to offices to get AV or other equipment for 7:45 classes, or if offices open early, will that affect closing time for offices. Alternatively, if classes are staggered and Minneapolis does not begin until 8:00, the St. Paul campus can only get in 3 class periods in the morning. Buses and transportation will not be a problem.

-- The policy banning during-the-term examinations (there is another policy covering final exams) offered at times other than the normal class meeting time was changed, in order to respond to suggestions from the Senate Consultative Committee and other concerns of SCEP members. Such examinations will be permitted if they are approved by the dean of the college and if they are published in the class schedule. In addition, any student who has a conflict between a regular class and such an exam, or between two such exams, must be accommodated.

-- The status of the adult special enrollment will be taken up later, and will continue to be available for now.

-- The coefficient of completion is used by several colleges, so removing it from the Assembly policy proposals would not be desirable.

*These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate or Twin Cities Campus Assembly; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes represent the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate or Assembly, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.

-- The policy prohibiting departments from imposing restrictions on electives was approved, and consolidated with a policy also prohibiting colleges from restricting the use of electives and from bracketing courses. The proposed policy, however, would not bar a college or department from changing its degree requirements (e.g., "recommended" electives could be required; a college could create a new category of requirements that students would have to meet, in order to meet college educational objectives; while no courses accepted for University credit by one college could be bracketed by another college, it is not assumed that all credits earned would necessarily count toward college or major requirements).

Professor Koch adjourned the meeting at 2:00.

-- Gary Engstrand

University of Minnesota