

Minutes

Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Meeting of December 5, 1984

Members Present: Lael Gatewood, Lawrence Goodman, William Hanson, Gerald Kline (Chair), Gretchen Kreuter (secretary to SCEP), Thomas Lussenhop, Robert McCollister, David Thompson, John Wallace (ex-officio), Gloria Williams, Mary Young

Members absent: Elaine May, Jeffrey Frey, Van Gooch, Andrew Lee, David Lutz,

1. Minutes. The minutes were approved as distributed.
2. Gatewood Report. A discussion was held of the Gatewood Report on Computers and its recommendations. The committee decided that the memorandum, to be titled, "Ten Recommendations on Computers and Educational Policy" should be revised and forwarded to Interim President Keller. Gretchen Kreuter will send the completed memorandum forward with an attached letter calling attention to the purposes of the document, and will send each SCEP member a copy as well.
3. Goodman memorandum on the proposed semester system. Gerald Kline distributed a revision of the memorandum. After some further minor revisions, the memorandum will be forwarded to the Robinett Committee and to the Senate, with the expectation that SCEP can take a leadership role in structuring the debate in the Senate.
4. John Turner on student representation. John Turner appeared before SCEP to discuss and to clarify the motion that Patricia Swan had introduced at last month's Senate meeting and that he supports. The motion, which asked that students be removed from Senate representation, had been widely misunderstood, said Turner. Her effort, he explained, was a legitimate use of Senate procedures. Her purpose was not to take away joint governance, but to provide that there be a forum where the faculty voice can be heard. No such forum now exists, he continued. It is inappropriate for students to be represented in such great numbers in the Senate. Instead, Turner suggested, only the student body presidents should be represented. Student representation on committees of the Senate such as SCEP, would not be affected.

William Hanson asked for an example of an issue that would have been decided better without student presence. Turner suggested that the Harassment Policy was one such example.

Tom Lussenhop asked how the Senate would be improved if students were not present. Turner replied that the faculty then could control its own agenda, and that there was more faculty interaction when students weren't present.

Further discussion centered upon student absences and upon the possibility that students should be appointed rather than elected to the Senate. John Turner noted that on SCEP, for example, the absence rate of students had been very high. Lael Gatewood responded that attendance on SCEP is not a good indicator of student interest and participation--that students had participated significantly in the working groups of SCEP.

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In reply to Lussenhop's question, whether Turner and Swan sought to punish students for not attending, Turner said no. The high absence rate of students in the Senate and on Senate committees was inherent in the kind of campus the University is.

David Thompson, reflecting upon the discussion, noted that removal of students did not seem the best first step in making student participation more effective.

Turner replied that Patricia Swan is prepared to withdraw her motion if a better plan is presented.

5. University Fellowships. John Wallace called the committee's attention to the University Fellowship program described in the Educational Development Program booklet. The program, which is a new one this year, offers a summer research fellowship to faculty members who, during the regular academic year, involve themselves in some aspect of co-curricular student activity. Deadline for applications is December 14.

The remainder of today's agenda was deferred to a future meeting. Meeting times for next quarter will be announced later.