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Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Minutes
April 11, 1986

Members Present: Susan Collison, Brenda Ellingboe, Patricia Thomas (staff), Lawrence Goodman, Sheila Corcoran, Andrew Collins, William Hanson (chair), Gretchen Kreuter (ex officio), Marvin Mattson, Thomas Daniels, Vernon Cardwell.

Members Excused: Mary Young, Michael Root, Van Gooch

Guest: Dario Menanteau

Minutes: The minutes were approved as circulated.

Senate Committee on International Education

Dario Menanteau, Chair of the Senate Committee on International Education, presented the committee's report to SCEP, stating the purpose is to call attention to the policy decision in 1977 and the central administration changes in the basic structure. He said this is an all-University exchange agreement and the faculty and Senate have an important voice in All-University international education. The changes are not major, but are mainly style and updating matters, making it easier to comply with the policy decision. The main change is in the section on public hearings which are now optional. The changes spell out the need for a public hearing, i.e., concerning subjects sensitive to academic freedom or inviting interested parties to ascertain further information.

SCEP passed unanimously a motion to approve the recommendations of the Senate Committee on International Education. William Hanson will take the steps necessary to get this item on the agenda for the May 15 Senate meeting.

Special Committee on Unified and Increased Preparation Standards

Chairman Andrew Collins stated that the committee had been engaged in a consultative process since the interim report was issued. A survey has been sent to secondary school principals, 435 school districts, students and university faculty. About half had responded. The philosophical bias of restraining high school courses is the most predominant comment. In response to this, the committee has reduced its requirements in the area of the social sciences and the arts. The high schools are in good shape to meet these requirements, Collins noted. However, it is important to pay special attention to such groups as minorities and older students who are in need of access support. There is a grandfather clause which exempts those graduating prior to 1987.

Vernon Cardwell expressed concern with the implications this would have in the College of Agriculture, which has the sharpest declining enrollment at the University. He said the College faces competition from agricultural schools in neighboring states, and more rural students are likely to choose those schools instead of entering the University and making up courses. He also stated that 850 Minnesota

students are now going to South Dakota, North Dakota, and River Falls schools where the reciprocity tuition is lower than the University's, and only 45 students from these states are coming here. He also expressed concern that because Crookston and Waseca are not included in these preparation requirements, their students would have more difficulty transferring to the Twin Cities campus.

Brenda Ellingboe pointed out that financial aid runs out after four years and suggested that the financial guidelines be reviewed.

Vernon Cardwell also questioned the two-year language requirement. He suggested that more flexibility be allowed and questioned why substituting a year of world history or cultural courses wouldn't work as well. He sees this as a penalty for late-deciding students who might not be able to complete these requirements.

Andy Collins replied that by properly communicating these requirements to 9th grade students, parents, counselors, and educators, many of these problems can be alleviated. Ohio, which has such guidelines in operation, has had no such problem. The number of applications during the three years in which the guidelines have been in existence has increased, the students have higher GPA's and there is a better retention rate. Ohio has an effective collection of publications which communicates the requirements to parents and students.

Vernon Cardwell still expressed concern with the requirements' effects on the College of Agriculture. He asked if there was a way to bail out if the enrollment dropped below the critical mass of students necessary to support the program.

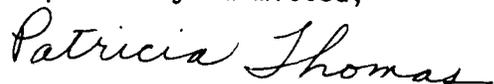
It was suggested that SCEP pass a motion recommending that stronger action be taken by the committee. The following amendment was passed: "In implementing these preparation standards, the University should adhere to all recommendations in the report of the special committee."

Vernon Cardwell moved that SCEP support the motion of the special committee when amended above. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

SCEP also expressed appreciation for the excellent work of the special committee.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Thomas
Administrative Fellow

PT:alp