

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

-MINUTES-

October 30, 1986

Members Present: (9:15-11:00 a.m.) John Clark, Marvin Mattson, Mary Young, Susan Collison, Andrew Collins (chair), Sheila Corcoran, Robert Myers, Lawrence Goodman, Gretchen Kreuter (ex officio), Naomi Scheman, Patricia Thomas (staff), Roland Guyotte (via telephone from Morris), John Wallace (ex officio).
(2:15-4:00 p.m.) Leisa Knych, Crystal Hanscome, Andy Collins, Gretchen Kreuter, Patricia Thomas

Minutes: The minutes were approved as written.

Task Force on Implementation of Undergraduate Education John Wallace, chair, briefly summarized the progress of the Task Force and identified the five steps which seem to be keys in realizing the vision for undergraduate education. Discussion covered Darwin Hendel's proposal for an Experimental Coordinated Lower Division and the possibilities for providing a sense of community through small group interactions, bringing students and faculty into greater contact. Lillian Bridwell's proposal for assessment of student writing and the potential advantages and disadvantages of requiring a writing portfolio from each student were discussed. Concerns centered on the types of writing to be assessed, the purposes of the assessment, the writing standards the samples would be measured against, and the results of the assessment. Questions about the use of portfolios in advising, monitoring, and evaluating functions were also raised.

Other issues discussed were the reward structure for faculty contributions to undergraduate education and expanded opportunities for differentiated staffing. It was pointed out that often research efforts are more highly rewarded because of the monies raised. However, many things like space allocation, supplies, and support services serve as rewards and make it possible for faculty to do their best work. Salary is not the only reward.

Andrew Collins will provide John Wallace with a summary of this discussion and asked for a progress report when the Task Force has completed its work.

Core Curriculum Survey

Gretchen Kreuter and Patricia Thomas conducted a telephone survey of ten universities to discover how they addressed the issue of core curriculum. The universities, selected because of similarities to the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, were: Indiana, Illinois Urbana/Champaign, Wisconsin/Madison, Washington, Michigan, Penn State Main Campus, Ohio State, Michigan State, UCLA, and Berkeley.

Three common features exist among these universities:

1. None of the universities has a core curriculum in place.
2. All of the universities, with the exception of Wisconsin, had an English requirement; and
3. Several of the universities are, at the present time, studying the merit and feasibility of some kind of core curriculum.

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Discussion of the specific requirements of each university followed the presentation. Gretchen Kreuter will send a summary of the survey findings to SCEP members.

The next SCEP meeting will be Thursday, November 20, 1986, from 2:15-4:00 p.m. in room 626 of the Campus Club. Dr. Richard Heydinger will speak on graduation rates and Professor Wilbert Ahern from Morris will describe the core curriculum proposal at the University of Minnesota, Morris.

GK:alp