

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Graduate School

Minutes of the Executive Committee
Tuesday, December 6, 1955
2 p.m., 331 Johnston Hall

Present: Professors Wallace D. Armstrong, A. Orville Dahl, Norman J. DeWitt, Will M. Myers, A. O. C. Nier, J. Warren Stehman, Deans Marcia Edwards, John G. Darley, and Theodore C. Blegen, presiding; Miss Davis, Secretary

Dr. E. B. Stanford, University Librarian, on invitation, during the discussion of Item VI.

- I. Dean Blegen reported Graduate School enrollment for the fall of 1955 as 3,230, an increase of 171 students or 5.59 per cent over fall, 1954. For the period extending from I SS 1954 through spring quarter, 1955, the total number of individuals in the Graduate School was 5,430. Attached is information giving various details, such as to distribution of these 5,430 students by group committees.
- II. Voted to discontinue transfer of graduate credits to the University of Minnesota to apply toward the Master's degree, with the understanding that this new policy will apply only to those students who enter the Graduate School after September 15, 1956. This means that the following statement (last published in the Graduate School bulletin for 1940-42) or some modification of it with explicit mention of the minimum credit requirements under Plan A and Plan B will appear in future bulletins of the Graduate School:

"No transfer of graduate credits from other institutions will modify the minimum requirement of one academic year in residence as a graduate student in this University for those who are candidates for an advanced degree. This means that no transfers are made in the case of candidates for the Master's degree."

It was agreed that the Dean would explore special situations in Social Work, Fine Arts, and certain other areas to ascertain what modifications, if any, would need to be made in these fields.
- III. Voted to retain course descriptions in the Graduate School bulletins, with instructions to the Dean to advise departments to prepare brief course entries for the 1956-57 Graduate School bulletin.
- IV. The proposal that courses in Law be accepted as a minor for Ph.D. and Master's programs was discussed. Action will be deferred until the Law School has submitted recommendations regarding appointments to the Graduate Faculty from the Law faculty and courses suitable for graduate credit.

- V. Voted unanimously to remove the following statement from future issues of the Graduate School bulletin:

"An applicant who does not designate a major may be admitted to take work for which he is qualified, but if at a later time he chooses a major he must meet the requirements of that department for acceptance to do major work."

- VI. The committee discussed the problem of the payment of fees by doctoral candidates for

- (a) the use of the library by students working on theses, both those who only use the library and those who also consult with advisers; and
- (b) the privilege of consulting with graduate advisers on theses when not registered for course work.

It was felt that a consistent policy must be arrived at cooperatively with the Library in the case of (a) above. There was some feeling that for the student who only uses the Library the present "thesis" fee is too high. The Committee did not arrive at a feasible method of enforcing registration for thesis in all cases, whether such registration is for the academic year or for summer terms. No action was taken since further study seems to be necessary.

- VII. Voted unanimously to validate the field of Physiological Hygiene as a major for the Ph.D., with all that such validation implies, including authorization of graduate faculty members for this area as named.
- VIII. Dr. Nier brought up the problem of Master's programs showing majors and minors taken within the same department. He gave examples from aeronautical, civil, and mechanical engineering. Dean Bløgen announced that this situation will be discussed in greater detail at a future meeting of the Executive Committee, after some further data have been collected on the problem.
- IX. The committee was reminded that some three years ago, on an experimental basis the Graduate School authorized (for Ph.D. majors in music) the presentation of a musical composition in place of the usual dissertation. The program was to be reviewed after three years. Dean Marcia Edwards and the Education Group Committee were asked to carry out such a review and to report to the Executive Committee. Miss Edwards was given a list of the graduate faculty in music as of October, 1955, the name of one candidate who has already earned the Ph.D., and information on the five Ph.D. candidates whose doctoral programs have been officially approved thus far.

- X. Dean Elegen commented on his attendance this fall at the annual meeting of the Association of Graduate Schools, and Dean Darley spoke of the meetings of the Graduate Council of the Association of Land Grant Colleges which he attended in November.

It was reported by Dean Darley that the microfilm fee of \$35, instituted in 1951, has proved to be too high. The Graduate School has proposed a reduction to \$25, with a refund of \$10 each to all candidates who have paid the \$35. The proposal will be considered at a meeting of the University Committee on Fees on December 8, and the action of the Fees Committee will be reported to the Executive Committee later.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret L. Davis
Secretary

TABLE I
 ENROLLMENT DATA FOR A FULL YEAR, 1954-55
 (I SS 1954 through Spring Quarter, 1955)

Period of Residence	Men	Women	Total
Academic Year Only	1896	404	2300
Academic Year Plus Summer Session	768	174	942
<u>Summer Session Only</u>	<u>1069</u>	<u>366</u>	<u>1435</u>
Totals	3733	944	4677*
<u>Rochester</u>	<u>719</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>753</u>
<u>GRAND TOTALS</u>	<u>4452</u>	<u>978</u>	<u>5430</u>

*Included for Duluth:	Men	66
	Women	<u>27</u>
	Total	93

TABLE II

GRADUATE SCHOOL DEGREES FOR 1954-55

Group Committee	Total No. of Students	Per Cent of Total Enrollment	No. of Master's Received	Per Cent of Total Master's	No. of Ph.D.'s Received	Per Cent of Total Ph.D.'s	Total Degrees
Agricultural Science	370	6.8	61	9.2	45	20.2	106
Biological Science	61	1.1	9	1.4	6	2.7	15
Education ¹	1903	35.0	235	35.3	61	27.4	296
Language and Literature	356	6.6	49	7.4	10	4.5	59
Medical ₁ Science	1232	22.7	77	11.6	19	8.5	96
Physical Science	626	11.5	86	12.9	40	17.9	126
Social Science	759	14.0	132	19.8	31	13.9	163
Other ¹	<u>123</u>	<u>2.3</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>2.4</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>4.9</u>	<u>27</u>
TOTALS	5430	100.0	665 ²	100.0	223 ²	100.0	888 ²

¹ Additional information on the Education, Medical Science, and "Other" Committees:

	No. of Students	No. of Master's Received	No. of Ph.D.'s Received
<u>Education</u>			
Minneapolis	1810	224	61
Duluth	93	11	
Total	1903	235	61
<u>Medical Sciences</u>			
Minneapolis	490	15	17
Rochester	742	62	2
Total	1232	77	19
<u>"Other" or Special committees</u>			
Minneapolis	112	15	11
Rochester	11	1	
Total	123	16	11

² No. of Master's 665 = 12.2 =) Per Cent of
 No. of Ph.D.'s 223 = 4.1 =) Total Enrollment
 888 = 16.3 =) For Full Year, 5430.
 (See Table I)

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Graduate School

September 15, 1955

Memorandum to the Graduate Group Committees:

We need to review the problem of the transfer of graduate credit from other institutions to programs for the Master's degree at the University of Minnesota.

As you know, we now authorize the transfer of a maximum of 9 quarter credits to a Master's program, with the condition that these credits represent "work satisfactorily completed at other approved graduate schools." We specify that not more than 6 quarter credits may be transferred to the major field and not more than 3 to the minor field under Plan A and that under Plan B none of the transferred credits may be substituted for the 9 credits in starred courses. Certain other conditions relating to credit transfers are stated on page 6 of the Graduate Bulletin, but need not be repeated for the purpose of this communication.

The problem is that a great many institutions now offer what may be called fifth-year work and give a Master's degree of some kind. As time goes on, we shall have more and more requests and increasing pressures for transfers of credits from institutions that announce and offer graduate programs and have organized graduate divisions, though they may not in fact be graduate schools in our understanding of the term. We do not permit the transfer of any fifth-year work done in the state teachers colleges and small liberal arts colleges of Minnesota to a graduate program here. The problem of consistency of policy will become progressively more difficult as the fifth-year Master's programs multiply throughout the country.

Indiana University does not permit the transfer of any credit from other institutions to be counted on its Master's degree (unless the student is himself or herself a graduate of Indiana University, in which case some part of a Master's program may be done at another institution and credit thus earned will be accepted by Indiana). Ohio State University announces that students entering from other accepted graduate schools will receive recognition for work already completed, but that no student will be given a Master's degree by Ohio State unless he has satisfactorily completed 45 quarter hours of work under the guidance of Ohio State University. In effect, this is a policy of no transfer. Some institutions, including Michigan, Wisconsin, and Iowa, make provision for transfers not wholly unlike those now in force at Minnesota. The University of Minnesota in earlier years did not permit any transfer of credits from other graduate schools to a Master's program. During the war modifications were made with respect to men in military service who earned graduate credits elsewhere, and after several further steps, the Executive Committee on April 25, 1944, adopted the present policy governing transfers. This was done during my absence in Washington, while Dr. Miller was Acting Dean.

As I have thought about the problem, two alternative positions have occurred to me as possible: (1) to adopt the policy of a minimum of 45 credits for Plan B and 27 credits for Plan A which must be earned at the University of Minnesota -- in a word, to accept no transfer of graduate credits for the Master's degree save perhaps in the nominal and diplomatic sense suggested by Ohio State's recognition of work done elsewhere alongside the fixed credit requirement in order to qualify for the Master's degree; (2) we might continue the present system of transfer of credits, with a proviso that no transfer will be accepted unless the credits have been earned in a graduate school which offers the Ph.D. degree. Possibly we might deny transfers of credit to graduates of other institutions, but for the sake of a more varied experience permit graduates of the University of Minnesota to earn a certain portion, perhaps on the 9 and 6 credit basis for Plans B and A, from some other graduate school of comparable standing with our own.

I am not much concerned with this problem of transfer of credit in reference to three-year Ph.D. programs, for here we have no stated credit requirements, and the problem for advisor and student is always to work out a satisfactory total program that meets the comprehensive examinations and residence requirements and takes into account the educational background of the individual. Where fifth-year work has been taken or other graduate work has been done in an approved institution there is no harm, as I view the matter, in representing that work on a three-year program, assuming that it fits into the major or minor situation here. We sometimes list work done elsewhere even if we do not officially authorize transfers of credit to the Minnesota program for the Ph.D. If we modify our transfer rules with respect to the Master's degree, I should still favor retaining our present authorization (Executive Committee, June 23, 1942) of transfer of residence credit up to six months in cases of the three-year Master's degree in medical specialties.

I am writing this memorandum to invite the graduate group committees to study the problem of transfer of credits toward the Master's degree in our Graduate School.

Perhaps there is some formula other than those suggested above under which we might deal effectively with the problem. I am frankly skeptical as to the wisdom of continuing our present policy without change, and my own inclination is to require the full 45 quarter credits under Plan B and 27 under Plan A to be earned in the Graduate School of the University of Minnesota for the Master's degree.

We shall have to reach a decision fairly soon, I believe, and if we change the present rules, we shall be obliged to set a time -- possibly the beginning of the academic year 1956-57 -- when the change will become operative.

I should like to have the group committees study the problem and give me their counsel, and in due time I shall want to take the problem up with the Executive Committee of the Graduate School.

Sincerely,

Theodore C. Blegen
Dean