

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Graduate School
Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday, April 17, 1979
11:30 a.m. Room 608 Campus Club

Members present: Faculty representatives--Professors Wendell Josal, Frank Miller, Edward Sucoff, Harold Swofford; Duluth representative--Professor Neil Storch; Administrative representatives--Deans Warren Ibele, chair, John Wallace, Kenneth Zimmerman; Student representatives--Ramesh Akkina, Ann Smith, Joseph Zagorski; Fellowship Committee representative--Professor W. Phillips Shively; Staff--Dean Klaus Jankofsky, Patricia Mullen, DeeAnn Olsen, Myrna Smith; Secretary--Beverly Miller.

I. FOR ACTION

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of March 8, 1979

The minutes were approved as submitted.

B. Thesis Credit Proposal

Dean Ibele reviewed a checklist of items to be addressed which had been distributed with the agenda.

The first item stipulated that the number of thesis credits required would remain at the level included in the May, 1978 revision of the proposal--36 credits for the doctorate (with the added stipulation that this would apply to the D.M.A. as well as the Ed.D. and Ph.D.), and 16 credits for the M.A./M.S. Plan A and for the M. Eng.

The second item recommended that students completing a Plan A degree at the University of Minnesota be allowed to offer eight master's thesis credits toward the requirement of 36 for the doctorate if they continued in the latter degree program. Professor Sucoff asked why a distinction was made between students taking a thesis master's at Minnesota and at other institutions. Dean Ibele said that this was related to the argument that the credit should be allowed because the student would already be familiar with the research program of the particular department in which he is enrolled. He said it also avoided the problem of evaluating thesis programs at other institutions. Professor Sucoff suggested that this be changed. He said it would make "second class citizens" of students coming from other institutions which would be undesirable. He said that in terms of quality there was probably as much variation within the University as there would be among other institutions. There was a discussion of this issue. The possibility of leaving it to the individual program faculty to determine whether a student should receive thesis credits for a

master's completed elsewhere was considered. Dean Zimmerman pointed out that it was probably more desirable to make a general determination than to confront departments with the need to make these decisions. Professor Josal asked whether doctoral thesis credits could be transferred from other institutions. The Dean said no. It was finally decided that a transfer of eight thesis credits would be permitted all students taking a thesis master's, whether at the University of Minnesota or elsewhere.

The third item dealt with the credit level at which the band would begin at which tuition would be frozen for four credits. The band began at the 11th credit in the proposal of May, 1978 (the student paying per credit tuition for the first 10 credits). The recommendation was that the band begin at the 9th credit with students paying per credit for the first eight.

Item four dealt with the issue of when students would become eligible to register for thesis credits. It was recommended that master's students be eligible immediately after beginning their program as the length of the programs is short. A number of possibilities were discussed for the doctorate. These included making doctoral students eligible immediately after entering the Graduate School and letting faculty advisers determine when and how many thesis credits students should take; establishing a minimum number of quarters in residence or a minimum number of credits of coursework completed; declaring a student eligible after official admission to candidacy with the passing of the preliminary oral; making a student eligible after passing the written oral; and tying eligibility to either the submission of the official program for the degree or the submission of the thesis proposal. The differences among fields were discussed since in some thesis research begins in the first year and in others not until after the preliminary oral. It was finally decided that eligibility to register for thesis credits in a doctoral program should be based on the filing of the official program for the degree. It was believed that some minimal requirement should be established to deter the inappropriate registration of students for thesis credits when it would simply be financially advantageous; at the point of the filing of the program was chosen as a compromise.

Professor Josal asked that it be made a matter of record that the Language, Literature, and Arts Policy and Review Council believes that the credit requirement is too high and that 24 credits for the doctorate and 10 credits for the master's would be a more accurate reflection of the faculty effort involved.

A motion to recommend approval of the thesis credit proposal, as amended in the above discussion, was made and seconded. The motion was approved with one dissenting vote. Dissenting was Professor Swofford, chair of the Physical Sciences Policy and Review Council.

The Dean said that the proposal, as amended, would be submitted to Vice President Henry Koffler and subsequently to the Fees Committee. He said that fall, 1979 implementation was probably too early and that fall, 1980 would be recommended. A methodical consideration is desirable, and time will be required to work out the mechanisms, particularly for the transition period.

II. FOR INFORMATION

A. Report on Fellowship Competition

Professor Shively, chair of the Fellowship Committee, reported that 354 nominations for Graduate School Fellowships for 1979-80 had been received. Fellowships were offered to 185 of these nominees on the assumption that approximately 90 offers would be accepted. Out of approximately 180 programs, 104 made nominations and 61 of them received one or more awards. For Opportunity Fellowships, 35 nominations were received and 22 awards were made.

Dean Jankofsky asked whether students entering the Graduate School in the summer of 1979 would have been eligible for 1979-80 fellowships. One of the Duluth programs did not submit nominations because students had been admitted for the summer session. Professor Shively responded that summer students would have been considered eligible as that is technically considered the beginning of the year. Dean Jankofsky said that of three nominees for the Duluth campus, one had been lost to Princeton. He asked whether Duluth would receive another fellowship as a replacement. Professor Shively pointed out that the committee does not use an alternates list. Twice as many offers are made as there are fellowships available. This is based on experience with acceptance rates. Percentages of acceptances will vary but this is handled by increasing or decreasing the number of Dissertation Fellowships.

Professor Swofford said that the document from 1977-78 showing how students rated in that year's competition was helpful in assessing the usefulness of nominating individuals. Ms. Smith said that such a report would be issued again. Dean Ibele pointed out that the competition in 1978-79 had been stiffer than in the previous year.

Ms. Ann Smith asked whether any follow-up had ever been done with programs that fail to nominate students. Professor Shively said that this has not been done but it is something the committee is thinking about. He added that the committee would be meeting in May to review the year's activities. Dean Ibele suggested that anyone with ideas for the committee should bring these to their attention.

There was a brief discussion of the criteria used in making awards. Academic criteria are very important, Professor Shively said, and although the GRE is not required he said that he believed that to some extent students for whom no scores are available may be disadvantaged.

B. Report on Federal Grant--Graduate and Professional Opportunities Program (GPOP)

Ms. Mullen reported that the federal government had funded, for the second year, the proposal submitted for the University for minority fellowships under the GPOP program. Announcement of funding of the first year was made in August, 1978. The University was granted 11 fellowships for the professional programs in dentistry and law and for the graduate programs in forestry and psychology. As late as the award came, students were found to fill the 11 fellowship slots. The renewal proposal was submitted in November and the University was recently informed that 9 new fellowships had been granted together with renewal funding for the second year for continuing students. The second year funding for new students was designated again for the professional programs in dentistry and law and for the graduate programs in forestry, and for a broadly defined "agricultural sciences" which included horticulture, food science and nutrition, and plant pathology. The agricultural sciences category was used to permit more flexibility in assigning the fellowships in areas where recruitment of minorities may be more difficult. The stipends are \$3,900 a year plus tuition. Renewal can be obtained for three years and possibly for a fourth. Professor Swofford asked whether the admissions standards for these students were the same as for other students. Ms. Mullen responded that they were with the possible exception of one "flyer" of the sort a program may occasionally take on an applicant. The Law School, she said, had admitted their students under their special program and she was uncertain as to how that was presently being handled.

She said that the University had also been named a regional center for the GPOP program and two meetings of regional representatives had been held during the year which were relatively successful.

C. General Research Advisory Committee Report

Dean Wallace distributed an information sheet which provided an overview of research funding. He said that the committee had met the week of April 9. There was some uncertainty about the amount of dollars which would be available as final legislative action on a request for research money is pending. Dean Wallace pointed out that from the year 1976 to 1978 the percentage of proposals which were funded had decreased markedly. Mr. Zagorski asked whether this was because of the quality of the proposals or the lack of available funding. Dean Wallace responded that the problem is funding. There are always more worthy proposals than there are dollars to fund them. Dean Ibele pointed out that the legislature has done fairly well by the requests for research funds. It is the other sources of research monies, both internal and external, which have been drying up. Dean Wallace said that final notices about funding would go out as soon as possible.

D. Report from the Council of Graduate Students

Ms. Smith reported that COGS has continued in its attempt to find a solution to its financing problems. They have met with one of the regents to discuss the matter; and they have voted to secede from student government and are seeking legal advice on this matter. New officers will be elected in May.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly D. Miller, Secretary