

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

March 11, 1952

Present: Professors H. H. Arnason, W. W. Cook, R. C. Jordan, D. B. Lawrence, C. E. Mickel, E. D. Monachesi, and M. B. Visscher; Deans T. C. Blegen, presiding, and J. G. Darley; Miss Margaret Davis, Secretary.

I. The dean reported briefly on the current Graduate School enrollment. As of the end of February, the total enrollment is 2,985, as compared with the final figure of 3,422 a year ago and 3,627 in the winter of 1950. He offered tentatively a prediction of an enrollment of 2,625 for the end of the second week of the fall of 1952 on the basis of evidence pointing clearly to a further reduction in numbers. For the March, 1952 commencement he announced that 83 Master's degrees and 43 Ph.D.'s would be awarded--a total of 126 higher degrees as compared with 137 a year ago and 90 in March, 1950.

II. Dr. Arnason recommended on behalf of the Group Committee for Languages and Literature the authorization of Comparative Literature as a major for the M.A. degree, a major for the Ph.D. degree, and a minor for the Ph.D. degree. This recommendation was based upon studies and a report by a special committee consisting of Professors Hornberger, chairman, DeWitt, Gustafson, and Wood. The Executive Committee voted approval of the plan with the following amendments or provisos:

- (1) A supervisory committee of not more than five members is to be appointed by the Dean of the Graduate School, with the understanding that its actions and recommendations will channel to the regular Graduate Group Committee in Languages and Literature;
- (2) The Executive Committee suggests the desirability of retaining the provision for a minor, employing for this purpose one of the planned areas of concentration.

III. Dr. Jordan on behalf of the Group Committee for the Physical Sciences recommended approval of a major in Geophysics for the Master's degree under both Plan A and Plan B, under the supervision of a committee made up of advisers from geophysics, physics, geology, and mathematics, (presently Professors Mooney, Buchta, Swain and Munro), Dr. Mooney to serve as student adviser, with the major including courses already approved and listed in geophysics, plus pertinent courses drawn from physics, geology, and mathematics. The Executive Committee voted approval of this Master's program.

IV. Dr. Monachesi recommended, on behalf of the Group Committee for the Social Sciences, approval of a Master's program in Regional and Urban Planning. This program would require a minimum of approximately 60 quarter credits and about one quarter of field work, and it is therefore anticipated that 5 or 6 quarters would be needed for its completion. A special committee had prepared a detailed report which served as the basis for the group committee's consideration

of the proposal. This report recommended the establishment of an interdepartmental committee representing at least three departments and a minimum number of required courses in seven specified groups.

The dean pointed out that favorable action by the Executive Committee would not necessarily insure the setting in motion of this new program, since it seemed probable that the program would call for appointment of a director and that possibly certain new courses would have to be established. In the discussion that followed, several suggestions were made of areas that might be taken into consideration in the program planning, including Art and Biology. It is expected that most students would proceed under Plan B, though Plan A might be advised in some instances.

Voted that the Executive Committee authorize the proposed program in Regional and Urban Planning, with two provisos:

- (1) That the stipulations as to the length of the program (notably the suggestion that it might be completed in a minimum of one academic year) should be modified so as not to reduce the actual requirements and performance in the areas outlined;
- (2) In voting this approval the Executive Committee does not commit itself as to the relative importance of this program as compared with various other educational programs of the University in the matter of financial support.

- V. After some discussion of the various uses made of research funds as administered by the Graduate School, the Executive Committee adopted the following resolution:

In general, research funds under the control of the Graduate School may be used for travel and field work only if such travel or field work is an integral part of the data-collecting or investigational program. Travel to professional meetings or travel in connection with inter-University planning and conferences is not ordinarily considered to fall within the above definition.

- VI. The dean then discussed briefly the problem of cheating in examinations, alluding to recent reports of cheating in the University and some rumors that touched the domain of graduate students. He emphasized the vital importance of taking all possible precautions, with responsibility centered in the instructor or unit administering a given examination, and he suggested the desirability of having the problem considered in the various group committees, with a view to safeguarding the integrity of graduate standards. This integrity, as Dean Darley pointed out, reaches beyond the Graduate School itself to the professions for which graduate training is a preparation. Dr. Darley reported briefly on constructive efforts now being made in certain areas to strengthen the security of various tests that are widely employed and emphasized again the need of vigilance and care as a means of forestalling cheating.

- VII. Dean Darley reported that a study is now in progress with respect to the dilemma of graduate students who, registered only for theses or for course work of less than 6 credits, are ineligible for the benefits of the University Health Service. When this study has been completed, its results will be presented to the Executive Committee with a view to a recommendation to the University Committee on Fees looking to the solution of the problem.
- VIII. The dean called attention to various problems on which study and analysis are going forward. Among those mentioned were a proposed major in Fluid Mechanics, a Ph.D. program in the social sciences, a program in the fields of engineering in cooperation with the Extension Division, a proposed Ph.D. program in music, a Master's program in the field of museum work, and possible revisions in Graduate School procedures in the light of group committee consideration of a special committee report on this subject.

Committee adjourned.

Margaret L. Davis
Secretary

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

GRADUATE SCHOOL

MINNEAPOLIS 14

March 18, 1952

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

PROFESSORS NORMAN J. DE WITT (CHAIRMAN)
HUNTINGTON BROWN
ALEX GUSTAFSON
FRANK H. WOOD
GUY DESGRANGES

Committee
File Copy
3-18-52
March

Gentlemen:

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Graduate School held on March 11, 1952, a Ph.D. program in Comparative Literature was officially approved.

By action of the Executive Committee I was authorized to appoint a supervisory committee of not more than five members, with the understanding that its actions and recommendations would channel to the regular Graduate Group Committee in Languages and Literature.

I am therefore asking those whose names appear at the head of this letter kindly to accept appointment as members of this supervisory committee. Since the program has not yet been launched and its development presumably will be experimental for a time, I am making these appointments for the period from now to June 15, 1953.

The Chairman will convene the committee and take up matters that call for immediate action. I have only two suggestions to make at this time. One is that, in my judgment, we should screen applications for admission to this program with great care in order to insure high quality among the students accepted. The second is that the strategy of doctoral programs, with respect to course work and thesis research, should similarly be given careful consideration. Let us make very certain that the programs have genuine substance and are not merely a heterogeneous scattering of courses. The Executive Committee, in its action of March 11, suggested the desirability of retaining the provision for a minor, employing for this purpose one of the planned areas of concentration. As I interpret this suggestion, it was definitely intended to insure a certain degree of depth in one area. I believe that it will be feasible to carry out the suggestion.

The new program seems to me to be an excellent one in its purposes and plans, and I shall appreciate very much your aid as a committee in carrying it forward.

Sincerely yours,

Theodore C. Hagen
Dean

TCB:HM

August 14, 1951

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Professor H. Harvard Arnason
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Dear Professor Arnason:

I am transmitting to you herewith a proposal for a new program at the graduate level in the field of Comparative Literature. I believe that this should be reviewed and acted on by the Graduate Group Committee. If you will have this done and then send on a resolution to me, I shall have the program put on the agenda for an early meeting of the Executive Committee of the Graduate School.

I have discussed this program with Professors Hornberger, Wood, Dewitt, and Gustafson, and the present formulation is a result of careful consideration by that informal committee. Professor Hornberger informs me that the program also has the approval of Professor Barton. Thus it is supported by representatives of five departments in the area concerned. Dr. Hornberger also points out to me that the list of courses is not intended to be final but rather an indication of "core" courses designed to establish a firm consistency in the program plan. It seems probable that few students will have the necessary language facility to undertake the proposed program, but Professor Hornberger and his colleagues feel that even though numbers are few, the program represents "a highly valuable type of graduate study."

Sincerely yours,

Theodore C. Blegen
Dean

TGB:III
enclosure

cc: Professor Hornberger

August 14, 1951

Professor Theodore Hornberger
Y218

Dear Professor Hornberger:

The proposal for a graduate program in Comparative Literature seems to me to stand up very well. Since this is a new program the next step would be to have it reviewed by the appropriate graduate group committee and I shall arrange to have this done. If the program is approved by that committee I shall then have it acted on by the Executive Committee of the Graduate School. Perhaps it would be desirable for you to talk the matter over with Professor Arneson, the new chairman of the group committee. Meanwhile I shall send him the formulation of the program.

Sincerely yours,

Theodore C. Blegen
Dean

TCE:IM

July 13, 1951

MEMO TO DEAN DARLEY:

Do you see any objection to giving Graduate School approval to a new program in comparative literature as blocked out in the enclosed document from Professor Hornberger? This probably should be presented to the Executive Committee of the Graduate School. I have already had a conference with the faculty group concerned with the proposed program, and I think it is of graduate quality. It also meets a need not presently met in the Graduate School.

TCB

Dean Darley: This looks
very good. I believe it's ready
to go to the Executive Committee
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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS
MINNEAPOLIS 14

AUG 10 1951

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

August 9, 1951

Dean Theodore C. Blegen
Graduate School
234 Administration

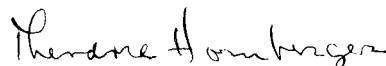
Dear Dean Blegen:

Late in July Professors Gustafson, Wood, and DeWitt edited my preliminary draft of a statement about a proposed program in comparative literature, which you will recall discussing with us. The statement has also the general approval of Professor Barton. The list of courses which accompanies it is not, however, a final one, it being the opinion of the group that certain "core" courses should be indicated, to give somewhat firmer consistency to the plan.

I do not think it likely that very many students will have the language facility necessary to undertake such a program as is here contemplated, but for those that do it seems to me, and to the chairmen of the other language and literature departments, a highly valuable type of graduate study.

Will you let me know at your convenience what the next step should be toward the approval of the plan? In the meanwhile we shall work on the idea of "core" courses.

Sincerely yours,



Theodore Hornberger

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Harberger
April 19
1957

EXPLORATORY MEMORANDUM ON A COMPARATIVE OR GENERAL LITERATURE PROGRAM AT MINNESOTA

"Literature is one, as art and humanity are one; and in this conception lies the future of historical literary studies." — Wellek and Warren, *THEORY OF LITERATURE*, p. 42.

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Situation at Minnesota

A number of courses and programs already in existence in the University suggest awareness of the importance of literary studies shaped in broader terms than existing departments. Courses in foreign literature in translation, courses in the inter-relationships of literatures in different languages, courses in literary types and genres, period and "style" courses, as well as the occasional appearance of the term comparative literature in graduate programs, give hints of the significance attached to breadth. There is, however, no systematization of these materials.

The Ideal Situation

Individuals doubtless differ widely in their convictions about comparative literature. It would seem, however, that few persons in the language and literature departments would seriously object to seeing the University turn out a few students with the following qualifications:

1. A reasonably thorough knowledge of at least three literatures, one Romance, one Germanic or Scandinavian, one other (Classical, English, Slavic, Oriental).
2. Linguistic competence in at least two languages other than English.
3. A more than superficial appreciation of the relationships of different national literatures and of the contributions of one or more to literary art as a whole.

The Question

Assuming agreement on this statement of the ideal, the question remains whether or not this ideal can be approached by some systematizing of the existing offerings, perhaps through the establishment of an interdepartmental program (or even a "paper" department), along the lines of the Area Studies, American Studies, and Linguistics and Comparative Philology.

Arguments against Systematization

1. The well-founded belief that there is no one presently at Minnesota to get very far with the third objective stated above.
2. The belief that to attempt to deal with literature as one, lacking expertness, is worse than useless, leading inevitably to shallowness and superficiality. The mastery of a single national literature, so the argument goes, is too much for one lifetime.
3. The belief that there are too few students now or in prospect with the linguistic equipment to profit from such broad studies.

Arguments for Systematization

1. The belief that Wellek and Warren may be right.

2. The belief that broader literary training will unite and strengthen the language and literature departments.
3. The belief that Comparative Literature would be perhaps the most appropriate minor for graduate programs in English, etc.
4. The belief that the perceptible trend toward "world literature" in the colleges and secondary schools will require better training in breadth in the universities.

Necessary Considerations

Assuming that the arguments for prevail over the arguments against, a number of central problems arise.

1. It would be possible, within the limits of the present requirements for the B. A. degree, to set up an undergraduate program leading to the fifth two qualifications described under "The Ideal Situation," above. Is this desirable?
2. It would not be possible, within the limits of present practice on the graduate level, to attain those same two objectives in M. A. and Ph. D. programs. Are the several departments (Classics, English, German, Romance Languages, Russian, and Scandinavian) interested in restricting the fields and course work for their major, so that a solid minor in Comparative Literature could be planned?
3. To attain the first of the three objectives, some use must obviously be made of courses in literature in translation. These exist on the 100 level in Classics, Italian, Russian, Scandinavian, and (if current proposals are accepted) Chinese. They do not exist in the central fields of Romance Languages and German. Can these departments make suitable provision for this need, assuming, of course, that students using such courses as part of a Comparative Literature program have linguistic competence in two other languages?
4. Such programs as are contemplated would almost certainly require some relaxation of prerequisites for graduate students, so that they could elect period and type courses in a department or department wherein they do not have behind them an undergraduate major. Are the departments willing to consider this possibility?
5. The crucial problem, perhaps, is the attainment of the third of the "ideal" qualifications. Would it be possible, by some co-operative method, to supply the present lack of scholars with the breadth of training to give a basic course in, say, "Problems of Comparative Literature."

ACTION OF THIS MEMORANDUM PRIOR TO 19 APRIL 1951

1. It was circulated fairly widely in the departments involved, meeting with general agreement that something of the kind of thing proposed should be attempted.
2. It was presented to the Council of the Department of English on 8 February, received with interest, and approved informally as a basis for further conversations.
3. On 6 April the chairman of the several language and literature departments (Mr. Davitt, Classics; Mr. Barton, Romance Languages; Mr. Wood, German; Mr. Gustafson, Scandinavian; and Mr. Hornberger, English). This group approved the project in principle, agreed that a "paper department" was undesirable, and authorized Mr. Hornberger, before going farther, to confer with Dean Dlegen and to offer to meet together with him for further discussion if he should so desire.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS
MINNEAPOLIS 14

Comp. Lit. Dept.
MAR 31 1952

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DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES

March 28, 1952

Dean Theodore C. Elegen
Graduate School
316 Johnston

Dear Dean Elegen:

I wish to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of March 18, in which you appoint me to serve on the supervisory committee for the program of comparative literature. I will be glad to serve on that committee. As a matter of fact, we have already had a meeting to discuss a text on that program for the Graduate School bulletin. However, I will be leaving the campus at the beginning of the Second Summer Session and will be on leave of absence next year.

Sincerely yours,

Guy Desgranges

Guy Desgranges
Assistant Professor

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MJD
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GRADUATE GROUP COMMITTEE FOR LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

December 13, 1951

- ✓ [1. The program in comparative literature was approved. It was assumed that the course offerings would constantly be restudied and revised from time to time.
2. The report of Dr. Cook's special committee on graduate school problems was approved with the following comments and one exception:
- Paragraph 2 - It was felt that the suggestion that two or more negative notes would fail the candidate should be followed.
- Paragraph 5 - The Committee feels it important that petitions for exemption from the foreign language requirements and those involving change of programs should continue to be approved by the Graduate Group Committee.
3. The Committee could not approve the program of Joseph W. Miller. It was felt that the topic of the thesis lay outside the province of the Committee, and that the program belonged possibly more in the area of education than in any other area. Whatever the disposition of the particular program, it was felt that this should not be described as a degree in communications.
4. The thesis subjects of A. R. Christensen and Roy David Hoover were in general approved. It was suggested that the possibility of a joint sponsorship of the theses by the Departments of Speech and possibly Sociology might be explored. The theses as presented do seem to involve a good deal of content that may fall within the general field of sociology.

(Signed)
H. H. Arnason
Chairman

DEC 19 REC'D