

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Graduate School
Minutes of the Executive Committee
Thursday, November 11, 1971
11:30 A.M. Campus Club

Present: Professors Donald Rasmusson, Paul Johnson, E. W. McDiarmid, Robert Scott, Stephen Prager, Ward Fowler of the Mayo Graduate School, Frank Ungar, R. Joseph Schork, Graduate Student Representatives, Elaine Parent, Julie Belle White, and Mary Ebert; Deans Millard Gieske, Warren Ibele, Harry Lease, Francis Boddy; Taewon Rno, by invitation; Beverly Miller; Bryce Crawford, Jr., presiding; Shirley McDonald, secretary.

Meeting Dates: Friday December 17, 1971 11:30 A.M. 626-627 Campus Club
Thursday, January 13, 1972 11:30 A.M. 626-627 Campus Club
Thursday, February 17, 1972 11:30 A.M. 626-627 Campus Club

Dean Crawford introduced Mrs. Taewon Rno who will join the Graduate School staff on November 16 as secretary to the Policy and Review Committees. She will be located in Room 307 and can be reached at 3-7927. By December 1st, we would expect that Mrs. Rno will be sufficiently familiar with the basics so that the P & R chairmen may direct their requests for assistance to her.

1. Council of Graduate Students - Mrs. Elaine Parent, Vice President of the Council reported that the group hopes to stimulate growth of graduate student organizations in as many departments as possible. Dean Crawford noted that the graduate students on the Social Sciences Policy and Review Committee believe that there will be an effective communication within their areas by means of a caucus of the students in the fields represented. This is an idea which other areas may wish to try; this or some similar plan could give us a group of Graduate Student Caucuses paralleling the Policy and Review Committee structure.

The Council now has space and telephone service (3-7909) in the Graduate School in Room 309 Johnston Hall; office hours are to be determined.

2. Proposed Graduate Degree Programs

- A. M.S. with a major in Family Planning and Population Studies - this proposal has been recommended, in principle, by the Health Sciences Policy and Review Committee; the Social Sciences P & R Committee will review it at its November 16 meeting. Preliminary notification has gone forward to the Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC).
- B. Cooperative Program for Administrators (joint program between the University of Minnesota and Moorhead State College). This proposal is currently before the Education-Psychology Policy and Review Committee. Preliminary notification has been sent to the HECC.

- C. Specialist Certificate in Library Science - this proposal which would replace the current Specialist Certificate in Library Science Teaching has been recommended by the Social Sciences Policy and Review Committee. Professor Scott said that there is some concern about the need for administration of professional degrees by the Graduate School. Dean Crawford said that most such programs are housed in the Graduate School and some in other colleges; it's a matter for individual case decision. He feels that with the growing importance of such programs, and the need for new ones--a matter under consideration by Professor Linck's SCEP Subcommittee on Post-Baccalaureate Programs--it will be desirable for such programs to be handled on some all-University basis either within the Graduate School or in some other University-spanning unit.

Professor McDiarmid explained that this Specialist Certificate, which requires the Master's Degree as a prerequisite, is a terminal degree--it extends the current program to persons needing specialization in areas other than just the teaching of library science.

Following the recommendation by the Social Sciences Policy and Review Committee, the Executive Committee approved the establishment of the Specialist Certificate in Library Science. It will replace the Specialist Certificate in Library Science Teaching.

The proposal will be sent to the Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Commission for review. Final approval must come from the Board of Regents.

- D. Proposed M.S. with a major in Medical Microbiology - Twin Cities Program - the proposal has been approved by the appropriate Graduate School committees and is currently before the HECC.
- E. Ph.D. with a major in Biomedical Engineering - has been approved by the appropriate Graduate School committees; preliminary notification has gone forward to the HECC.
3. Meeting of Directors of Graduate Study - Dean Crawford announced that the fall quarter meeting of the Directors of Graduate Study will be held on Tuesday, November 30 at 3:00 PM in the main dining room of the Campus Club.
4. Graduate School Admissions Policies - the ad hoc committee chaired by Professor William Martin, has prepared a report which Dean Crawford distributed to the Executive Committee. Appendix III will be sent as soon as it has been completed. The report will be duplicated and sent to the Policy and Review Committee members and the Directors of Graduate Study. There may not be time for a discussion prior to the November 30 DGS meeting, but the Policy and Review Committees may wish to review it and possibly take action on some of the recommendations at the December 17th meeting of the Executive Committee.

The Council of Graduate Schools and the Graduate Record Examinations Board surveyed the more than 300 graduate schools in the COGS on fall term admissions and financial aid. Response from about 175 of the schools indicates that admissions are up but that financial support for students is down considerably. Dean Crawford will circulate the official report as soon as he receives it.

5. Proposed Changes in the University Grading System - a report of preliminary recommendations on the University grading system was prepared by the subcommittee on Student Scholastic Standing, and presented for information on May 27, 1971 to the University Senate.

Dean Gieske summarized the recommendations. In essence, the F grade would be eliminated and, in its place, the symbol N would be used to indicate that the student registered for a course but did not complete the work, performed unsatisfactorily, or cancelled the course. In other words, the N would replace the Fail, the W (official cancellation) and the I (incomplete). Rationale for the recommendation is stated in the report. While the University is asked to certify competence, it should not be compelled to certify failure. "The subcommittee feels that symbols which convey the meaning of failure have an unnecessarily negative impact and are punitive."

Several of the Executive Committee members expressed the belief that the use of the N would penalize those who legitimately earn an Incomplete (I) or officially cancel a course because it is not a suitable one (W). Numbers of Incompletes permitted are set by the departments; incompletes are often useful indicators, especially for courses for which papers are to be written.

The Policy and Review Committees are asked to discuss these recommendations and report their reactions to the Graduate School. Professor Schork suggested that senatorial representatives on the P & R and Unit Committees and that the student representatives should be aware of these reactions.

NOTE: Since this meeting, Dean Gieske found that a new subcommittee will be appointed to be chaired by Dean Roger Page of CLA; there will probably be a report made to the University Senate in the spring of 1972. The Executive Committee will be informed.

6. Proposed Elimination of the Final Oral Examination for the Master of Social Work Degree - Professor Scott reported that the Social Sciences Policy and Review Committee reviewed and recommended the proposal by a small majority. Some of the members believe that the student should have an opportunity to demonstrate the ability to integrate his knowledge; others are concerned about an absence of input into a final "judgement" by a faculty member outside of the major field. It was concluded, however, that this is a clearly labeled professional degree. The students competence is tested along the way, by faculty committees and by a

variety of outside agencies. An hour's oral examination at the end of a two year program has had little meaning and has been costly in faculty manpower. The Policy and Review Committees may wish to look into the various practices in the administration of the Master's degree in their own areas. There are such differences across the fields that a single committee would find it difficult to make an effective review of the subject.

Following the recommendation by the Social Sciences Policy and Review Committee, the Executive Committee approved the proposal that the final oral examination for the Master of Social Work Degree be eliminated.

7. Unit Committee Responsibilities - with the reorganization of the committee structure in the Graduate School, the new Unit Committees have been charged with the processing of student programs, thesis titles and outlines, graduate course requests (except off-campus Joint Registration courses) and nominations to the Graduate Faculty at the A-1 and A-2 levels. Some of the Policy and Review Committee chairmen have received inquiries from the Unit chairmen as to how much responsibility the Units have in making judgements on these matters. The Education-Psychology Policy and Review Committee discussed the question and concluded that it is the prerogative and the responsibility of the Unit Committees to review the substance of student programs and thesis topics and to make recommendations as well as assign examining committees. The value in getting the broader view by faculty outside of the immediate major is recognized. If the Units believe that there isn't sufficient information for making these decisions, they should ask for more.

There is some confusion both in the Units and the Policy and Review Committees about lines of communication. Dean Crawford said that there should be no rigid rules on this; matters of general policy should come formally to the Graduate School for possible referral to the Policy and Review Committees; however, there will be instances in which the P & R chairmen should give advice and answer questions in direct informal consultation and they are encouraged to do so.

The Executive Committee suggested that Dean Crawford write to all of the Unit Committee chairmen so that there can be a uniformity of practice and to end confusion about lines of communication between Units, Policy and Review Committees, and the Graduate School.

8. Graduate Course Requests - course requests at the 8-000 level are referred to the Unit Committees. Only the 5-000 level Joint Registration courses, to be offered away from one of the established Extension Centers, come to the Policy and Review Committees.

Currently, all other 5-000 level courses go through the college curriculum committees and have not been the concern of the Graduate School. A question has come up as to whether there should be a Graduate School review of these courses. There is some worry about possible proliferation of

courses across the fields. And some 5-000 level courses are not permitted on graduate degree programs for students majoring in the field in which the courses are given, although students outside the area may take them as part of a minor, related field, or supporting program.

The Executive Committee suggested that there be no Graduate School review of all 5-000 courses, but asked Dean Crawford to write Unit Committee chairmen and the Directors of Graduate Study asking that students be warned that all 5-000 courses may not be applied to the graduate program. The Graduate School Bulletin should also carry this warning and a statement included in the newsletter, Form 7000.

9. Nominations to the Graduate Faculty - Professor Ungar reported that some members of the Health Sciences Policy and Review Committee believe that the Unit Committees are closer to the fields represented and would, therefore, be more knowledgeable about faculty recommended to the Graduate Faculty at the A-3 and B status. It was suggested that the Units do the detailed review and report the recommendations to the Policy and Review Committee. The A-1 and A-2 nominations, currently processed by the Units, could be recommended and reviewed at the field level and sent directly to the Graduate School Dean's Office for final action. Both the Education-Psychology and the Social Sciences Policy and Review Committees have subcommittees which will attempt, first, to establish criteria to follow in considering nominations. These subcommittees have been charged with the detailed review and will bring only those nominations which raise questions to the full Policy and Review Committee. Dean Crawford suggested that the Health Sciences Committee might wish to handle their Graduate Faculty nominations by means of a subcommittee system.

Professor Rasmusson said that the Plant and Animal Sciences Policy and Review Committee are exploring a procedure which would enable two faculty members and a student representative to review nominations; if there are no problems, the nominations would not need full committee review. Professor Rasmusson said that the nomination form itself is not particularly useful--it does not suggest inclusion of information on scholarship, and advising and teaching experience. Professor Ungar said that supporting letters from department heads should also be supplied. Graduate School staff will draft a revision of the form and ask the Executive Committee to react to it.

10. Graduate Program Review - Procedures developed by a number of other institutions for the review of graduate degree programs have been sent to the Policy and Review Committee chairmen. These may be useful in identifying criteria and guidelines for the selection and review of on-going graduate programs by the Policy and Review Committees. Dean Crawford suggested that the exchange of ideas through the P & R Committee minutes will also be helpful.

Professor Rasmusson said that the positive aspects of the program reviews might be discussed with the Directors of Graduate Study; some fields may wish to find ways in which their graduate programs can be strengthened.

Dean Crawford said that the college reports of recommendations for the recent program of Retrenchment and Reallocation may have implications as far as the graduate programs are concerned. The Policy and Review Committees may wish to discuss the reports and inform the dean if there is any action to be taken. He will ask for copies of these reports.

The subject of graduate program review will be on the agenda for the November 30 meeting of the Directors of Graduate Study.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley McDonald
Secretary

November 23, 1971

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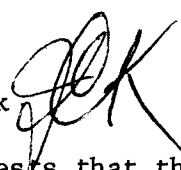
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

S.W.H.
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

909 SOCIAL SCIENCES BUILDING • MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455

June 3, 1971

To: Dean Bryce Crawford, Graduate School

From: John C. Kidneigh, School of Social Work 

The faculty of the School of Social Work requests that the Graduate School permit the awarding of the Master of Social Work degree without a required final oral examination. Until the present, a final oral examination has been required because the Graduate School requirements for both Plan A and B has specified this requirement (see pages 9 and 10 of the Graduate School Bulletin 1970-72). As you know, the required program for the Master of Social Work degree differs from either Plan A or Plan B Master's degrees.

We base our request on the following:

1. As a professional degree program requiring 90 credits for graduation, there are sufficient evaluative methods in use which make the final examination superfluous and somewhat meaningless. All of our candidates have completed an intensive field work requirement which in essence tests their ability to apply knowledge to a practice situation. This work is closely supervised and is evaluated on a continuous basis.
2. That the final examination coming in the final quarter prior to graduation and generally about an hour in length cannot adequately assess the student's integration of two years of work. It thus becomes only a kind of "final hurdle" or "rite of passage" and again, rather meaningless.
3. That these examinations require a tremendous amount of faculty manpower (from 60-100 students graduating each year, with two Social Work faculty and one faculty person from outside the Department on each committee) which viewed against the lack of significance of the exam is unwarranted.
4. That making the examination optional would permit the Department to explore the possibility of devising a more effective examination should faculty in the future wish to do so.

If approval is given to this request, we suggest that the change become effective beginning fall term 1971, and we suggest that the Graduate School provide a form (to replace the currently used oral examination form certifying passing) which would certify that the student's program meets requirements for graduation recommending the awarding of the degree of MSW to be signed by the student's adviser plus one other social work faculty member and the director of graduate studies.

JCK:vmt

UNIVERSITY OF *Minnesota*

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Ed Comm

GRADUATE SCHOOL

OCT 25 1971

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH-COMMUNICATION
317 FOLWELL HALL • MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455

October 21, 1971

Dean Bryce Crawford, Jr.
The Graduate School
321 Johnston Hall

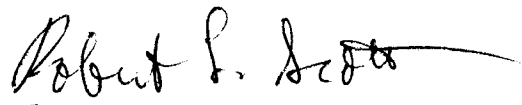
Dear Dean Crawford:

You will soon have minutes of the October 19, 1971, Social Sciences Policy and Review Committee. But there are two items on which we took action about which you may want to be informed:

We recommended approval of the request by the Department of Social Work to waive the final oral examination for the Master of Social Work degree.

We recommended approval of the proposed Specialists Certificate in Library Science.

Sincerely yours,



Robert L. Scott
Chairman
Social Sciences Policy and Review Committee

RLS/jlp

cc: John Kidneigh
Dept. of Social Work

Wesley Simonton
Dept. of Library Science