

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FACULTY SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Monday, November 1, 1948, Room 101, Law Building

The Senate convened at 3:40 o'clock in Room 101, Law Building, on Monday, November first, with President McCormick presiding. Twenty-eight members were in attendance.

The minutes of October eleventh were approved.

DISHONEST SCHOLASTIC WORK, ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURE PROPOSED REGARDING: Dr. Solve moved reconsideration of the action taken October eleventh on Part III of the report of the Cheating Review Committee. The motion was seconded by Dr. Roberts and passed.

Dr. Roberts moved, with a second by Dr. Solve, that an alternative plan, summarized as follows, be substituted for Part III of the Cheating Review Committee recommendation. The Senate agreed that if the motion were passed, the substitution would be referred to the Cheating Review Committee for consideration.

- "(A) There is to be a Committee on Dishonest Scholastic Work, as proposed by the Review Committee.
- (B) When a case of dishonest work is discovered:
- (a) Procedure A. The instructor will (1) determine the guilt on whatever evidence appeals to him as fair and just;
(2) Award a penalty, not in excess of a 5 in the course; and
(3) Inform the Committee on Dishonest Work of the incident and the penalty. Subject to (D), below, the instructor shall be the sole judge of the guilt and the minimum penalty.
 - (b) Procedure B. Or, alternatively, the instructor may refer the entire problem, with appropriate evidence, to the Committee for action and disposition.
- (C) In the event that Procedure A is followed, the Committee may not question the guilt (except as provided in (D)) nor reduce the penalty. But the Committee will be expected to increase the penalty if the offense is a repeated one, or if in the Committee's judgment the severity of the offense warrants a punishment in excess of a failing grade in that course.
- (D) In the event that Procedure A is followed, a student may appeal his judgment of guilt by his instructor to the Committee, via his dean. On the basis of this appeal the Committee may find the student innocent, and may therefore annul the penalty awarded by the instructor, but it may not for any other reason reduce or annul the penalty.
- (E) A student whose case comes to the Committee for action (under Procedure B, or by appeal, or for repeated offense) shall be summoned by the Committee. A student who ignores such a summons will be subject to disciplinary action by the Dean of Men or the Dean of Women, his academic record shall be impounded in the Registrar's Office, and he will not be relieved by the usual penalty imposed for his offense. But a student appearing before the Committee may waive his right of defense."

Dr. Hudson, Chairman of the Cheating Review Committee, explained that the objective of that committee first was to discover the status of the problem, submit this to the faculty, take the replies, and work up a plan of control in accordance with the expressed wishes of the faculty. He called attention to the fact that 77.6 percent of the faculty favored establishment of a uniform policy, and that more than 90 percent of the faculty said they would report cases of cheating. The general plan has been shaping up since February. He felt that committee action is the better way to avoid teachers' errors; and by handling cases in a disinterested manner, it can establish better public relations. It was acknowledged that the plan submitted by the committee and the alternative plan as summarized above have the same basic philosophy. The committee plan has come from the faculty. Under it, instructors are not compelled to testify in person. One of its provisions directs the instructors to impose penalties for conduct not in keeping with good practice during examinations. He explained also that the committee does not object to a provision for appeals by students from such penalties. In line with the desire of the faculty, this plan calls for the reporting of cases when guilt is clear. The basic function of the committee, he added, is not to encroach on the teachers' privileges, but to serve them.

Dr. Hudson explained that the alternative plan (summarized above) has certain basic deficiencies. The instructors may err; and in case of appeal, a difficult situation may result if the instructor's action is overruled. The problem was suggested also in handling the cases of students who repeat the offense. He questioned also whether instructors who are reluctant to follow any plan would report any more effectively under the alternative plan the cases they are allowed to administer. Dr. Hudson suggested that, if the principle of the alternate plan were adopted, the plan itself be sent back to a committee to work out numerous technical deficiencies in it.

Dr. Barnes explained that much cheating is reported on the part of students, but that the Review Committee's survey did not show how much of discovered cheating was not reported by the instructors. The Committee on Student Examinations and Reports, he stated, is not a "criminal court," but rather a "juvenile court." It tries to impress on the student the value of honesty. Many students do not realize the seriousness of their violation. In his judgment, a good deal has been accomplished by the committee system. It does not encroach on the instructors' rights, as some think. On the other hand, not much can be done by the individual instructor so far as penalties are concerned. Under the alternative plan, the maximum penalty would be a grade of 5. As contrasted to this, fifty-six instructors gave it as their opinion that the present plan of penalties is too lenient. Seventy-eight regard it as satisfactory. It was Dr. Barnes' opinion that students are apt to reason that if they do not cheat, they will have to fail; and if they do cheat and get caught, they will be penalized only with a failing grade. The Committee on Student Examinations and Reports feels the situation regarding cheating is improving. So far this semester, six students have been reported. The second semester of last year, a total of seventeen students were referred to the committee. In 1946-47, twenty-three cases were considered. It was Dr. Barnes' opinion that greater unity in administering cases can be achieved through the committee plan.

Dr. Hudson suggested that the vote on the question be taken in consideration of the principles involved rather than on the revised statement as submitted.

Dr. Roberts explained that his interest is in the prevention of cheating and that in his judgment, the alternative plan, if adopted, will establish the basic principles. He added that in spite of all that has been done in the last thirteen years, comparatively few reports have been submitted; and most of these have come from the same two or three departments.

Dr. Solve pointed out that the formula proposed by the Cheating Review Committee does not establish uniformity, nor does the alternative proposal encourage a lack of it. The committee system, he explained, would eventually bog down under the large number of cases to be considered.

Dr. Carpenter recalled that the experience of the committee shows that eleven out of eighty students have been acquitted of charges. This means only that the committee makes the final decision, and is not necessarily evidence that the student was or was not guilty. In his judgment, the present situation is deterrent to reporting cases to the committee.

Dr. Roy explained that in serving with the committee from time to time he had been impressed by the nature of its work and the fairness and care with which all details were checked. He called attention to the large percentage of the faculty who state their willingness to report cases to the committee, but suggested that the committee plan may result in the necessity of having more than one Committee on Student Examinations and Reports to keep up with the cases submitted.

Dr. Houghton, Dr. Haury, and Professor A.S. Andersen spoke briefly in support of the alternative plan.

The question being called for, the Senate voted against the substitution of the alternative plan so summarized above.

Dr. Garretson moved to amend the second paragraph under Part III, C., The Handling of Cases in the committee report by providing for a method of appeal in the event a student should deny the charge. He withdrew the motion, however, when it was apparent that lengthy discussion would ensue.

PART III, C., (5), PROPOSED REVISION OF: Dr. Hudson read a proposed revision of this part of the committee report. Objections were voiced, however, on the grounds that the statement was poorly written; and it was agreed that it would be returned to the committee for rewording before being considered by the Senate.

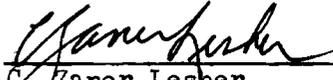
STUDENT BODY ASSEMBLIES: President McCormick read a communication from Mr. Merrill Windsor, student body president, calling attention to the action of the Senate on May third, approving four student assemblies rather than the six requested, with provision that conflicting classes be canceled. The communication stated a request by the student body for two assemblies in addition to the one already held (Mothers' and Dads' Day) this semester.

Dr. Roberts moved, with a second by Professor Borgquist, that the request be denied. This motion was withdrawn, however, after Dean Slonaker explained that a number of institutions allowed assemblies; and it was agreed that consideration of the request would be withheld until he had an opportunity to present information regarding present practice elsewhere.

CHEATING CASES, CONTINUED ADMINISTRATION OF: Dean Butler moved that the present Committee on Student Examinations and Reports be continued to handle cases of cheating until the Senate had opportunity to take final action on the report of the Cheating Review Committee. The motion was seconded by Professor A.S. Andersen and passed.

SPECIAL MEETING: It was agreed that a special meeting of the Senate to consider matters now on the agenda would be held on Monday, November fifteenth.

The Senate adjourned at 5:45 p.m.



C. Zaner Lesher
Secretary

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