

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FACULTY SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Room 101, Law Building, Monday, November 7, 1949

The Faculty Senate convened in regular session at 3:40 p.m. on Monday, November 7, in Room 101 of the Law Building. Twenty-eight members were present, with Vice-President Nugent presiding.

The minutes of the meeting of October 3 were approved as published.

ABOLISHMENT OF PREREQUISITES, REQUEST FOR: Dean Clarson moved that the prerequisite of Anthropology 1a-1b for the Anthropology courses 20b, 130a-130b, and 144 be eliminated during summer school except for anthropology majors. He had discussed this with Mr. Getty of the Anthropology Department, and they both felt that non-majors (especially teachers) could get value from the courses without knowing the technical background afforded by the lower division courses.

Dean Patrick objected to waiving the prerequisite for courses which carry graduate credit and suggested that the matter be referred to the Committee on Graduate Study. Dr. Roberts stated that to drop the prerequisites would create a dangerous precedent and that it would be unwise to have for the summer session a policy different from that obtaining in the regular academic year. Professor Borgquist suggested that to drop prerequisites would actually lower standards. From his experience in courses in anthropology, he felt prerequisites were essential to adequate understanding of the more advanced work.

Dean Clarson called attention to the fact that the catalogue already lists a precedent (Music 176) and that the course carries graduate credit for non-majors in music only.

Dr. Roberts explained that the Curriculum Committee of the College of Liberal Arts has invariably opposed the waiver of prerequisites. The relation between a particular course and its prerequisites involves a logical sequence in the development of course material. Dean Harvill also emphasized the position of the Curriculum Committee of the College of Liberal Arts.

Dean Clarson explained that he had wished to expedite consideration of the matter by bringing the request directly to the Senate rather than by referring it to various committees first. His motion had not been seconded, and on motion by Professor Borgquist with a second by Dr. Schneck, the Senate voted to refer the question of waiving the prerequisite of Anthropology 1a-1b for Anthropology 20b, 130a-130b, and 144 to the Curriculum Committee of the College of Liberal Arts. (It was understood that Dean Clarson could use his judgment as to whether or not he would prefer to withdraw the request.)

MIDSEMESTER DISQUALIFICATIONS, CHANGE IN POLICY RE: The Secretary presented a recommendation from the Advisory Council as follows: "The Council voted to recommend to the Faculty Senate that the present policy of disqualifying students at mid-semester as stated in the catalog be discontinued as of this time."

He then read from a report to the Advisory Council of action by the Council and the Faculty Senate in May of 1949 regarding the action taken concerning the administration of midsemester and final semester reports but that the preliminary report had been discontinued. (of delinquent reports. It was clear from the Minutes of both the Council and the Senate that no action had been taken changing the administration) 12/5/49

Dean Harvill explained that it was the feeling of some of the members of the Advisory Council that the Senate last spring had provided that students would not be disqualified at midsemester. It appeared that a number of faculty members were also under the impression that such action had been taken. He himself had been in favor of abandoning the preliminary report and of not disqualifying students at midsemester; and he had opposed automatic disqualification. He further explained that were disqualifications to be discontinued at midsemester, the Dean of the college would still have the authority to recommend that certain students be dropped. He felt that the whole system of disqualifications should be reviewed and that it would be well to try as an experiment the plan of having no disqualifications at midsemester. The records of this year and previous years could be compared to determine the effect of the change in policy.

Dean Harvill moved that for the first semester we discontinue the practice of disqualifying students at midsemester. This motion was seconded by Dr. Schneck.

It was Dr. Carpenter's understanding that the Advisory Council reviews each individual case and that they would be prohibited from doing this if the motion passed. Dr. Nugent explained that the Advisory Council itself had submitted the recommendation to change the policy.

Dr. Roy pointed out that the Dean and the instructor concerned can still drop students for non-attendance or excessive failure, and it was Dr. Roberts' opinion that the proposed practice would have a helpful disciplinary effect at the end of the semester. Dean Harvill reported that some students even asked to be disqualified at midsemester in order that they might return in January. Dean Clarkson's judgment was that the new plan would eliminate discrimination in administering disqualifications in that all students would be disqualified at the same time, rather than having some of them disqualified at midsemester for the balance of the semester and some at the end for the second half of the year.

Dr. Houghton raised the question of the attitude of the Advisory Council toward making disqualification automatic at the end of the semester, and Dr. Nugent replied that the Council had not considered this question. Dr. Roy pointed out that this had been considered last year, and the Senate had felt it unwise to adopt automatic disqualifications. Under this policy the passive student would accept the disqualification and leave the University, while a more active student submits a petition and is often reinstated. Some felt that automatic disqualification made public relations easier; others felt it made it more difficult to adjust matters with parents.

Dean Harvill also opposed the practice of reviewing only those cases submitted by students. He finds that at midsemester nearly all students listed on the scholarship report as failing to meet the requirement call at the Dean's office but that at the end of the semester, many such students have left the University before their cases can be reviewed.

It was Dean Clarkson's judgment that the strongest argument against automatic disqualification was the stultifying effect when, after we have disqualified the student we indicate that he may return if the circumstances seem to justify it. Such action has a bad effect, not only on the student, but also

on the members of the faculty. It was his opinion, also, that every student is entitled to review of his case before being disqualified. Dr. Schneck reminded the Senate that the plan of automatic disqualifications had been administered for a number of years and had been dropped in favor of the present plan.

Professor Schwalen asked if the student listed on the midsemester 50% report could withdraw on his own initiative at midsemester. Dr. Nugent replied that he could and asked if he would be listed for disqualification at the end of the semester. Dean Harvill stated that if the student withdrew within ten days of the report he could return in January on probation, and Mr. Leshar pointed out that the Catalog provides that courses which are dropped within a period of ten days following the closing of records for the report are not listed on the final semester report. He suggested that a similar policy apply to students who are failing at midsemester but who withdraw before the end of a ten-day period and that such students be allowed automatically to return on probation at the opening of the second semester.

Dr. Roberts felt that to do this would nullify one of the arguments in favor of discontinuing disqualifications at this time, but it was Dean Harvill's judgment that it would not make much difference and that comparatively few students would withdraw. Professor Borgquist remarked that no change was suggested in present procedure which allows the Dean to drop students from individual courses.

Dr. Cardon remarked that the scholarship requirement should be changed to conform with the new graduation requirement of a 3.2 average. This proposal, according to Dr. Roy, had been recommended by the Grading Committee.

The question being called for, the Senate voted approval of Dean Harvill's motion.

WITHDRAWALS WITHIN THE TEN-DAY PERIOD: Dr. Nugent raised a question as to whether the student would be allowed to withdraw on his own initiative within a period of ten days following the close of records for the mid-semester report and return at the opening of the second semester. He felt that this question should be definitely clarified.

Mr. Leshar moved that any student listed on the midsemester report as failing to meet the scholarship requirement and who withdraws prior to the close of the period ending ten days after the publication of the midsemester report be automatically eligible to return on probation at the opening of the second semester. This motion was seconded by Dean Clarson.

Dean Chapman called attention to the case of a student who is passing in only one course and if allowed to withdraw at this time would be able to return on probation for the second semester. If he were disqualified now, however, he would not be able to return, as it would be his second disqualification. He felt that the proposal would place unnecessary responsibility on the Deans. He pointed out that a student might remain in the University indefinitely just by attending for half-semesters.

Dr. Roberts also took exception to the proposal, suggesting that a student might pay no attention to notices from the Dean and that he could withdraw and then return without penalty. He felt that the student should have to stay out the whole year and asked if a student is failing to meet the scholarship requirement at this time, why he should not be required to stay out of the University

as long as a student who is failing to meet the requirement at the end of a semester.

Mr. Leshar replied that the proposal was essentially a part of the tentative plan submitted by the Advisory Council. It has been the custom to allow a student who is dropped at midsemester to return on probation at the opening of the second semester. The effect of the new regulation is, as yet, unknown. Some students failing at this time will be able to make up some work and pass at the end of the first semester. Others may be discouraged now and will feel it to be to their advantage to withdraw and start over in February. If they are not permitted to withdraw with provision to return on probation at the opening of second semester, they have no choice but to go on, with the likelihood of failing in most of their work, and face disqualification at the midyear. What can be gained, he asked, if they are prevented from closing their records now with the hope of returning to do more satisfactory work during the second half of the year. We should keep in mind also the fact that the Dean of the College can recommend the disqualification at any time of a student who obviously is failing to make any effort to establish a satisfactory record.

Dr. Garretson asked if a Dean doesn't have the authority to refuse registration to a student who is failing. Dean Harvill explained that the Dean cannot prohibit a student from reregistering if he is eligible to remain in the University, but that the Dean can ask that the student be dismissed, if he fails to do satisfactory work. Such action can be taken at any time.

In response to a question by Dr. Roberts as to what information might be available regarding the attainment of students who have returned to the University after being disqualified, Dean Harvill explained that there are many reasons for failure. Some students lack ability to do satisfactory work and show no improvement. There are a number of others, however, who fail, but who, upon returning the University, do improve their records. In many cases it is failure to adjust to a new environment and a lack of effort. He reported that at one time figures showed that most of the students placed on probation who remained in the University in the Liberal Arts College did make satisfactory records and were not placed on probation a second time. Dr. Nugent reported that on the basis of one study it was found that 50% of the students returning did make satisfactory records.

The question being called for, the motion was passed.

SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENT, PROPOSAL RE: Dean Lyons proposed that the Senate adopt scholarship standards for establishing probationary standing, exclusion, and readmission which will bear some relation to the new standard for graduation. We now have a graduation requirement based on a scholastic average, but for good standing in the University require that the student pass more than 50% of his work. Under this plan it is possible for the student to remain in the University for some time after it has become mathematically impossible for him ever to graduate. The Grading Committee, he reminded the Senate, in making its report, referred to this situation and recommended that the colleges study the question as to what should be appropriate scholarship levels for good standing in the freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior years. The College of Law faculty, he reported, has considered this question and wishes to submit a plan based on the new standard for graduation. He moved that the Grading Committee be reactivated and authorized to solicit recommendations from the various college faculties for standards of probation and exclusion and to consider these and submit a report to the Senate. This motion was seconded by Professor Barnes.

After a brief discussion, the Senate voted and the motion carried.

Dean Clarson asked whether or not a senior who graduated next May must be required to offer 80% of his residence credits above a grade of "4" or if he would graduate under the 3.2 rule. Mr. Leshar replied that this would be optional on the part of the senior, who may use either the catalogue under which he first enrolled or the catalogue for the year of graduation. It is provided also that veterans may use the catalogue for the year of admission, that for the year in which they return to the University, or the catalogue for the year of graduation.

GRADUATION AVERAGE, CORRESPONDENCE COURSE GRADES AND CREDIT BY EXAMINATION, RE COMPUTATION OF:

The Secretary presented a recommendation from the Advisory Council that the Senate adopt a regulation stating that in no instance should any credit earned by correspondence study or established by examination be considered in computing a grade average for graduation. He explained that this would mean that any deficiency in scholarship apparent before graduation would have to be made up by work completed in residence.

Dr. Roberts moved, with a second by Professor Andreas Andersen, that the recommendation be approved.

It was Dr. Roy's opinion that the recommendation proposed a difficult requirement. Dr. Cardon asked if correspondence grades and credit by examination were not computed in any case and whether adoption of the recommendation would make any difference. Mr. Leshar replied that correspondence credits and credit by examination are not computed in the scholarship requirement for graduation.

Dr. Houghton suggested that if correspondence work was acceptable as degree credit it should be computed in graduation requirements. Dean Clarson explained that correspondence work is treated as transfer work and that it has had the effect of reducing the number of credits which the student must complete in residence with a grade above "4." He agreed with Dr. Houghton that if correspondence credits are worth degree credit they should be computed in the required average.

Dr. Garretson asked if a study had been made of a comparison of grades made by students taking correspondence courses with grades established in residence. The Registrar reported that he knew of no such study but that students reported correspondence courses generally are more difficult than residence courses, particularly since the individual must complete the course in more detail. It was his judgment that there is something to be said for computing all grades, especially since the faculty has been encouraged to report definite grades for credit by examination.

Dr. Nugent called attention to the catalog statement which requires computation of the graduation average on the basis of "all work taken at the University." He asked if this includes credit by examination and correspondence course credit. It was Dr. Roberts' judgment that correspondence work is more different in nature than work taken at some other college and transferred here and that there should be a distinction between correspondence work and work transferred from other institutions.

Dr. Cardon stated that the question is whether we accept correspondence courses as bona fide University courses. Mr. Leshar raised the question as to the status of extension classes, such as those in Douglas, Bisbee, and other cities in Arizona. Extension classes given locally are counted as credit

in residence.

Dr. Roberts felt that correspondence work is definitely different from work in residence. It was his judgment that the grade average required for graduation be based on work in residence only. He pointed out that there is a limit to the amount of correspondence study work which can be applied on a degree. Dean Clarson explained the reason for this limit is similar to the reason for requiring that the work of the senior year be done in residence-- that is, to have the student identified with the campus to some extent.

The vote on the motion was taken by a show of hands, and the motion carried.

MEMBERS, REPLACEMENTS FOR ABSENTEE: It was pointed out that in connection with the absences on leave of Dr. Solve and Dr. Haury, these members of the Senate may appoint substitutes without power to vote. The Secretary was asked to write to these members asking if they wished to do so.

Reference was made to the resignation of Dr. Leon Pultz, who was elected as a member at large and whose term would run until the end of the next calendar year. Dr. Houghton explained that there was no detailed procedure outlined for the election of a member by the Senate.

Dr. Nugent suggested that the Election Committee could be asked to bring in suggestions at the next meeting of the Senate. Dr. Pistor recommended the election of Mr. Harvey Tate, Extension Horticulturist, and the recommendation was seconded.

Dr. Carpenter suggested that there would be more merit in the plan of considering a list of the names of those members for which the faculty had voted than in considering one or two names submitted to the Senate at this meeting. He moved that information regarding the list of those voted on as members at large be brought to the Senate at the next meeting. This motion was seconded by Professor Andreas Andersen. The motion was then changed to read that the election of a successor to Dr. Pultz be postponed until the next meeting of the Senate, at which time the Secretary will submit the necessary information. The motion was carried.

LATIN-AMERICAN EXCHANGES: The Secretary read from a report submitted by Dr. Claude H. Brown of the College of Law faculty explaining the restrictions imposed by the Arizona Constitution in connection with the employment of aliens. This was related to the question of whether or not the University could arrange for exchange professorships and exchange students from Latin-American countries as submitted by the Committee of Eleven.

It was apparent that such exchanges could not be arranged without a change in the State Constitution.

Dr. Roy moved that Dr. Brown's report be accepted with an expression of thanks and that the matter again be referred to the Committee of Eleven. This motion was seconded by Dr. Garretson.

Dr. Schneck explained that the Committee of Eleven would not be interested in considering the matter further but that it should be disposed of by the Senate.

Dr. Garretson moved to amend Dr. Roy's motion to say that the Senate

accepts with thanks the opinion which Dr. Brown had submitted. The amendment was seconded by Dr. Roy, and the motion carried.

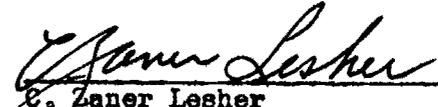
Dr. Barnes moved that a letter be written to the Committee of Eleven saying that nothing can be done about exchanges with Latin-American countries. This was seconded by Dr. Garretson.

Dr. Houghton suggested that if the question was sufficiently important, steps could be taken to effect such a change.

Dr. Cardon explained that the original recommendation regarding exchange professorships and students did not come from the Committee of Eleven but was submitted by members of the faculty. The Committee of Eleven was not indicating what final action should be taken but that if nothing is done the Senate would be failing to consider a matter submitted by members of the faculty.

At the request of Dr. Barnes, the Senate agreed to postpone action on the motion until the next meeting.

The Senate adjourned at 5:30 p.m.


E. Zaner Leshner
Secretary

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