

University of Arizona
Proceedings of the Faculty Senate

Meeting of Monday

May 6, 1957

Approval of minutes: The minutes of the meeting of April 1, 1957 were approved as distributed to members.

Delinquent Scholarship Reports, report of Committee to Study: Dr. Merritt, Chairman of the special committee appointed to study Delinquent Scholarship Reports, submitted his committee's report. After discussion of it, the Senate voted adoption of Recommendations 1, 2, and 3; and then voted that Question 4 be further considered by a new committee to be appointed by the President. The committee report is as follows:

COMMITTEE REPORT

To: President Harvill
Faculty Senate of the University of Arizona

From: Committee on Delinquent Scholarship Report Procedures:
(Professors Bateman, Newlin, Roos, Vanvig, Merritt (Chm.))

Re: Committee Recommendations

On February 20, 1957 the above committee was appointed and charged with bringing back to the Senate recommendations on two matters which had been referred to the Senate by the Advisory Council. On March 20 an additional question was referred to the committee and on April 2 another question was referred to the committee. Below are the committee's reformulation of these four questions. The committee's recommendations follow:

Questions:

- 1) Should students reported with failures at the time of the delinquent scholarship report be permitted to drop courses without penalty at that time?
- 2) Should the date of the delinquent scholarship report be moved to an earlier date in the semester?
- 3) Should students who have been resident students for two full semesters meet sophomore scholarship requirements even though they have less than the minimum number of credit hours required for sophomore standing?
- 4) Should standards based on cumulative grade averages be used as a basis for the disqualification of students instead of or in addition to the present requirement? (At present, freshmen must pass 50% of their work and sophomores must pass in 60% of their work.)

In attempting to formulate recommendations, the committee has considered the work of previous committees which dealt with similar questions, obtained the views of all deans by means of a checklist, and met a number of times to consider the merits and disadvantages of alternative proposals. While the committee believes its recommendations will strengthen and/or maintain standards, it recognizes that quality cannot be legislated and that it is in the classroom rather than the catalogue that quality will be maintained. The committee's recommendations appear below.

In connection with question one above, the committee recommends that

- A. Present policy be continued with respect to dropping courses in which a failing grade was received at the time of the delinquent scholarship report.

Justification: It was felt that the present meaning of a grade of "W" should be retained. A "W" given after the 2nd week of the semester now means an approved withdrawal indicating satisfactory work at the time the course is dropped.

The Committee felt that a change in this regulation might lead to additional pressure by students for special consideration in connection with staying in a dormitory, letters to draft boards, etc. For students taking laboratory work where space is at a premium, it might lead to unused space which might have been used by more interested students. It was also felt that to change the present regulation would offer a convenient "out" and might discourage sincere effort right at the beginning of a course.

At present, exceptional cases can be handled satisfactorily under the provisions of the section of the catalogue on page 80 entitled Transfer to Less Advanced Course.

In connection with question two above, the committee recommends that

- A. The date of the midsemester scholarship report be changed by rewriting the catalogue material on page 80 to read as follows:

A report of grades covering scholarship deficiencies shall be furnished by instructors. . . .to the Registrar's Office at the close of work on Tuesday of the seventh week of each semester. (And delete the remainder of the sentence).

Justification: The committee gathered information from the several deans as to their practice in calling students for consultation and their views on the desirability of changing the date of the Delinquent Scholarship report; all ten Deans believed that the Delinquent Scholarship Report did not come in time to be of maximum value to the students. One dean pointed out the difficulty of obtaining a fair estimate of student work much earlier than is now the case. Eight of the ten thought that the D-list date should be moved to an earlier date on the academic calendar. Three thought it should be set one week earlier. Three thought it should be set

two weeks earlier. The committee felt that an earlier D-list date would be of value to students.

In connection with question three above, the committee recommends that

- A. Freshman students who have been resident students for two full semesters be required to pass more than 60 per cent of their work to be continued in good standing. (This is the present requirement for sophomores.) To accomplish this, the catalogue should be changed to read as follows: (page 81, line three)

Freshman students are returned to good standing upon passing more than 50 per cent of their work except that freshman students who have been resident students for two full semesters must pass in more than 60 per cent of their work. Students of sophomore, junior, and senior standing must..... etc.

Justification: The committee felt that such students have already had the benefit of the lower freshman requirement (50 per cent passing) and should thereafter be expected to pass in more than 60 per cent of their work.

In connection with question four above, the committee recommends that

- A. Present policy be continued with respect to standards for probation and disqualification. (Except that the change recommended above be incorporated.)

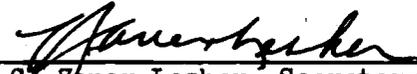
Justification: The committee found evidence that our present system works reasonably well. Data from two of the largest colleges indicated that the poorer students do not now continue at the University. Students in the lowest deciles on the scholastic aptitude test seldom if ever continue to graduation. Most of them do not get as far as the junior year. Their grade averages are typically low and they do not continue at the University. Our system does have the advantage of giving students a chance to try. Their year or two at the university is not without some value to these students.

The proportion of students with low grade averages (below 3.5) changes drastically from the freshman to the senior year, becoming lower each year, especially at the upper division level. In one of the big colleges, thirty-six per cent of the freshmen had grade averages below 3.5 while only five per cent of the seniors had grade averages below this point.

The committee feels that academic standards at the University of Arizona now compare favorably with similar standards at other good state universities. While there are some arguments opposing those given, the committee feels that there is no compelling reason for a change at this time.

Respectfully submitted,
COMMITTEE ON DELINQUENT SCHOLARSHIP REPORT
PROCEDURES
H. E. Bateman, P. B. Newlin, N. R. Roos,
A. Vanvig, C.C. Merritt (Chairman)

Extension Work, Committee report on Integration of: Dr. Gegenheimer, Chairman of a Subcommittee of the Committee of Eleven, appointed at the request of the President, to study the integration of extension class work with that of the regular University session, presented a report of his committee. The report was discussed and it was agreed that if formal action on it is necessary a special meeting of the Senate will be called.


C. Zaner Leshner, Secretary