

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE FACULTY SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Monday, November 3, 1958 Room 101, Law Building

The Faculty Senate convened in regular session at 3:40 P.M. on Monday, November 3, 1958, in Room 101 of the Law Building. Forty members were present with President Harvill presiding.

Present: Andersen, Bateman, Bogart, Brewer, Carlson, Crowell, Forrester, Garretson, Gegenheimer, Harvill, Hausenbauer, Howard, Hudson, Hull, Humphrey, Irwin, Kemmerer, Little, Livermore, Lynn, Lyons, Marcoux, Martin, Mead, Mees, Merritt, Murphy, Myers, Patrick, Paylore, Picard, Pistor, Powell, Rhodes, Roy, Tucker, Vavich, Wallraff, Windsor, Zapotocky

Absent: Casaday, Enke, Nugent, Slonaker

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting of October 27, 1958 were approved as published, with an addendum by the secretary. Mr. Windsor reported that he had erred when he stated at the previous meeting that the only instance in which the University forgives failing grades received in the freshman and sophomore years when the courses concerned have been repeated in residence and passed was in determining the graduation grade average. He explained that 5's in failed courses repeated are also forgiven in computing the average needed to enter the College of Pharmacy upon completion of the pre-professional work, and that 5's in failed courses repeated are also forgiven in computing the cumulative grade averages of holders of activity scholarships in determining whether or not the holders of such scholarships are eligible for their renewal.

CATALOGUE MATERIAL: The Faculty Senate accepted the following new courses: Agr. Econ. 209 - Farm and Ranch Appraisal; Plant Breeding 225 - Techniques of Plant Breeding; and Nursing 35-E - Orientation to Public Health.

ESTABLISHMENT OF GRADES OF "SUPERIOR" AND "SATISFACTORY" FOR CERTAIN GRADUATE COURSES, APPROVAL OF: Dean Rhodes presented a recommendation from the Graduate Study Committee that the grade of "Credit" be authorized as an official grade of the University and that this be the only passing grade available to students enrolling in 299 courses - graduate credit; and in 400 - Research; 405 - Internship; 410 - Thesis; and 420 - Dissertation.

Dean Rhodes moved that the recommendation of the Graduate Study Committee be approved, and this motion was seconded by Dr. Tucker.

Dr. Hudson asked Dean Rhodes to estimate how many students who received master's degrees in 1958 would not have received them if they had not been able to have included in their graduate grade averages their grades in such courses as those under discussion. Dean Rhodes explained that although he had not checked the matter, he was confident the number would have been relatively small, probably not more than three or four.

President Harvill inquired if there is a tendency on the part of faculty members to award higher grades in research and thesis courses than in regular graduate course work. Dean Rhodes replied that generally this was true. Dean Rhodes explained that it was often difficult to evaluate individual studies work when it comes to deciding whether a grade of 2 or 1 should be awarded. In answer to a question, Dean Rhodes pointed out that normally a thesis grade is awarded by the thesis director rather than by a committee.

Dr. Murphy stated that he felt students enrolled in 299 and 399 courses were entitled to definitive grades. Both of these courses require accomplishment which must be completed within a specific time limit.

Dr. Harvill asked if it were possible that a student's total graduate program might consist almost entirely of courses of the type under discussion, whereby, under this proposal, the student would receive virtually no definitive grades in his graduate work. Dean Rhodes explained that it was not likely a student would have such a graduate study program.

Several senators remarked that the present system of awarding specific grades to theses has worked to the advantage of the mediocre student. Dr. Harvill stated he would hope that the proposal if adopted would not result in any disadvantage to the superior student.

Dr. Humphrey and Dr. Hudson stated they felt it would be particularly inappropriate not to award specific grades in 399 - Seminar - courses.

Dr. Tucker explained he was acquainted with a number of instances where students unable to earn grades of 2 in their formal course work on the graduate level were able to "save" their graduate grade average by receiving 1's in their thesis and research work.

Dr. Gegenheimer then suggested that in order to differentiate between the superior student as distinguished from the merely satisfactory one, the grades "Satisfactory" and "Very Satisfactory" be authorized, neither to count in the grade average. These grades on the student's transcript would, however, indicate to other institutions the quality of the student's performance. He remarked that he had directed many theses and sat on many thesis committees, and from his experience he felt it was often impossible to award a thesis a specific grade. Dean Rhodes replied that the Graduate Study Committee had considered a proposal similar to Dr. Gegenheimer's but had decided to propose only the one grade of "Credit" in order to avoid establishing two new grades rather than only one.

Mr. Andersen asked if consideration could be given to making the "Credit" grade available as an official grade, but leaving to the instructor concerned the decision whether to award a specific grade or merely a grade of "Credit." Dean Rhodes said this matter had been carefully considered by the Graduate Study Committee and it was felt the choice of grade by the instructor should not be optional.

Dr. Patrick stated that from his earlier experience as Dean of the Graduate College he was in full accord with the proposal of the Graduate Study Committee. He felt that opportunities should be provided to distinguish good or passable work from

truly excellent work by appropriate designation but that the designating marks should not be included in the graduation grade average. Dr. Patrick asked Dean Rhodes if he would accept an amendment to his motion whereby the instructor would have the privilege of granting the grade of "Satisfactory" or "Very Satisfactory." Dean Rhodes indicated this would be acceptable.

Mr. Windsor remarked at this point that Dr. Tucker had reminded him that in using machine equipment, it would be difficult to add more than one additional grade code to the punched cards. If two new marks should be adopted, such grades would have to be processed by hand.

Dr. Harvill reminded the Senate that many leaders in higher education today feel that every effort should be made to encourage and recognize the superior student. He wondered if there was a possibility, if students know they will not receive a specific high grade for superior work, there might be some let-down in effort.

Dean Martin pointed out that in his college for several years the grade in thesis has not been computed in the graduate grade average. It was necessary to take this stand, he pointed out, because of the pressure that was being placed on faculty members to give grades of 1 in theses.

Mr. Bogart stated he would like to see the motion divided into parts. He pointed out that he felt, and he thought many senators agreed with him, that although the proposal of the Graduate Study Committee was a good one so far as 400, 405, 410 and 420 courses were concerned, the proposal should not extend to 299 and 399 courses.

Dr. Patrick was asked if his suggestion that the proposed grade of "Credit" be replaced by two grades, Satisfactory and Very Satisfactory, had been submitted as a formal amendment to Dean Rhodes' motion. Dr. Patrick stated it had been, but it had not been seconded.

Dr. Humphrey then moved that the course 399 be removed from the list of courses for which the grade "Credit" should be the only passing grade available. Dean Rhodes stated he was unwilling to accept this amendment. He was, however, willing to withdraw his original motion.

Dean Rhodes then stated that he wished to withdraw his original motion and would submit the original proposal in three separate motions. Dr. Tucker, who had seconded Dean Rhodes' original motion, agreed to its being withdrawn.

Dean Rhodes stated he felt that the words "Superior" and "Satisfactory" were preferable to "Very Satisfactory" and "Satisfactory", and he then moved that the grades of "Superior" and "Satisfactory" be established as passing grades to be available in courses 400, 405, 410, and 420; moreover, these were to be the only passing grades available in these courses. Dr. Tucker seconded the motion, and it carried without dissenting vote.

Dean Rhodes then moved that the grades of "Superior" and "Satisfactory" be established as grades to be available in 399 - Seminar - when taken for graduate credit, with the understanding that these would be the only passing grades available to

graduate students enrolled in these courses. Dr. Tucker seconded the motion.

A divided voice vote was heard. The President called for a vote by show of hands, and Mr. Windsor reported that the motion carried 22 votes to 15.

Dean Rhodes then moved that the grades of "Superior" and "Satisfactory" be established as grades to be available in 299 courses - Special Problems - when taken for graduate credit, these grades to be the only passing grades available to graduate students enrolled in 299 course work. Dr. Tucker seconded the motion.

In answering a question from Dean Lyons as to whether or not the grades of "Superior" and "Satisfactory" would be available in courses other than those specifically mentioned, Dean Rhodes replied that it was the intent of his motions that the new grades be available only in the specified courses.

Professor Andersen stated that the Department of Art offered several courses in the 300 series for which he would like to see grades established similar to those proposed by Dean Rhodes. Dean Rhodes pointed out this matter would have to be cared for by a separate motion.

The question being called for, Dean Rhodes' third motion was passed by a heavy majority.

It was understood that the grades of "Superior" and "Satisfactory" as established by Dean Rhodes' three motions would carry no value whatsoever so far as a student's graduate grade average was concerned; in other words, these grades will be disregarded in computing the graduate grade average. It was further understood that the new grades would be established as of the beginning of the next biennium.

Dean Lyons then moved that the grade of "Credit" be established as an official grade of the University. Mr. Windsor seconded this motion. Dean Lyons pointed out there were courses in the 100 series offered by the College of Law in which the law faculty felt a general grade of "Credit" would be more appropriate than a definitive grade of 1, 2, 3, etc. He commented that at one time the grade of "Credit" had been assigned in 197 - Practice Court - although this has not been done in late years.

Dr. Gegenheimer stated he felt there should be some safeguard controlling the use of the grade of "Credit". If it were indiscriminately used, the University's entire grade structure could become meaningless.

Mr. Windsor explained that the grade of "Credit" had been used upon occasion in the past although it has never been established as an official University grade listed in the catalogue. It had been occasionally assigned as the grade in thesis and research courses. It also had been approved by the Advisory Council as the grade to be awarded students called to military duty while in course at the University when their records have been closed before the end of the semester and they have been assigned partial credit.

Dean Rhodes asked if it would be appropriate to use the "Superior" and "Satisfactory" terminology in the law courses referred to by Dean Lyons, without introducing an additional grade of "Credit." Dean Lyons remarked he was sure it would be.

President Harvill asked if there were cases where the use of the term "Superior" or "Satisfactory" would not be as acceptable as the term "Credit". Mr. Windsor replied he could not think of any.

Dean Lyons stated he felt his motion would be more acceptable if it provided that each college faculty should determine in what specific courses the proposed new grades were to be used. Dean Lyons then withdrew his original motion, with Mr. Windsor's approval. He then moved that the grades of "Superior" and "Satisfactory" be authorized as official grades for specific courses when approved by special action of the college faculty concerned. Mr. Windsor seconded this motion.

President Harvill asked what grade would be assigned in case a student failed such a course and Dean Lyons replied that the grade of 5 would be used.

Mr. Andersen at this point explained that Dean Lyons' proposal would provide appropriate grades for the art courses in the 300 series about which he had spoken earlier.

Dr. Patrick stated that he was not in favor of the new motion because it would permit colleges to do away with the qualitative grading system. He reminded the Senate that the university seems to be about to establish a cumulative grade average basis for determining probation status. He felt Dean Lyons' motion would, on the other hand, permit colleges to establish new grading systems which would not use definitive grades.

Dean Lyons said he was sure no college faculty would do away with the general university grading system. He felt it was no more likely the college faculty would commit such an act than that the Faculty Senate would do so.

Dr. Humphrey stated he felt the motion would permit each college to set its own standards. Dean Lyons said such a development was highly improbable.

Mr. Windsor asked if Dean Lyons' motion would be less objectionable to the Senate if the authority for determining in what courses the grades of "Superior" and "Satisfactory" were to be used were left to the academic dean concerned. Dr. Harvill explained that this procedure would place too much pressure on the Deans.

Dr. Gegenheimer moved that the motion be laid on the table, but just as Dean Garretson was seconding this motion, Dean Lyons withdrew his motion with the approval of his second. It was suggested that Dean Lyons, at a later meeting, propose that the grades of "Superior" and "Satisfactory" be authorized as grades for specific law courses.

COMMITTEE TO IMPLEMENT FIXED GRADE AVERAGE BASIS FOR PROBATION STATUS, APPOINTMENT OF:
Dr. Harvill referred to the action of the Senate at its October 27 meeting which had approved a proposal that the basis for determining probation status and disqualification shall be a graduated set of fixed grade averages and the consideration of the grade average of the previous semester. The Senate had then adopted a motion that the President be asked to appoint a committee to bring to the Senate recommendations to

implement the motion just passed.

Dr. Harvill appointed the following committee to bring recommendations concerning this matter to the Senate: Dr. Hudson, Mr. Windsor, Dr. Merritt, Chairman.

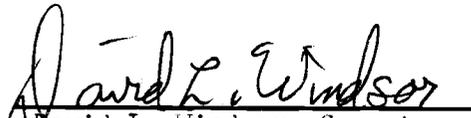
GENERAL REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT: President Harvill reported to the Senate that at the next meeting of the Board of Regents on November 14 he would submit the capital outlay requests for the University for 1959. He indicated the request of the University would be for a substantial amount, inasmuch as the institution's building needs are great. He stated that he anticipated that the Regents would submit to the legislature capital requests for only one year, that is for 1959, rather than submit a "biennial request" to take care of buildings to be constructed over a two year period.

The President reported that he felt that the alumni of the University are at present more concerned about the welfare of the University than at any previous time in the institution's history. Under the direction of Mr. Marvin Johnson, increased alumni interest and support are being developed. There has been marked improvement in the past year in alumni effort in a variety of areas concerned with the future advancement of the institution, the President pointed out.

The President assured the Senate that he would continue his efforts to obtain from the Regents and from the legislature the maximum amount of financial support for the institution. He would continue expending every effort to improve the level of University salaries. He remarked he had been assured of support in this matter from both alumni and legislature leaders.

Dr. Harvill stated he had no reason to believe the legislature would not continue the practice of many years of appropriating funds for the University in a total amount, leaving the specific allocation to various phases of operation to the judgment of the Board of Regents and the President of the University.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 P.M.


David L. Windsor, Secretary