

The University of Arizona
Proceedings of the Faculty Senate

Meeting of Monday

November 6, 1961

PRESENT: Bateman, Blitzer, Brewer, Carlson, Conley, Forrester, Gegenheimer, Gillmor, Gustavson, Harvill, Haury, Hillman, Hudson, Hunt, Hurlbutt, Livermore, Lynn, Lyons, McDonald, McMillan, Martin, Muir, Murphy, H. Myers, L. Myers, Nugent, Patrick, Paylore, Quinn, H. Rhodes, J. Melvin Rhodes, Rosaldo, Roy, Slonaker, Svob, Vavich, Zapotocky. Mr. Shirey was present as secretary pro tem. Dr. Arthur H. Beattie, Dr. G. D. Percy, and Mr. Arthur T. Grant were also present.

ABSENT: Ewing, Gaines, Hausenbauer, Irwin, Kassander, Kemmerer, Little, Moore, Powell, Wallraff, Windsor.

WELCOME OF NEW SENATE MEMBERS: President Harvill welcomed to the Senate the following newly-elected members: Dr. Jimmie S. Hillman, Dr. Robert H. Hurlbutt, Dr. Klonda Lynn, Dr. Robert M. Quinn, Dr. J. Melvin Rhodes, and Mr. Robert S. Svob.

CATALOGUE MATERIAL: Mr. Shirey presented two new National Science Foundation courses - Botany 8103, Plant Science for the Elementary School Teacher (3) II, Kurtz; and Mathematics 8116, Basic Concepts of Elementary Mathematics (3) I, Steinbrenner; and the deletion of one course - Anthropology 186, American Indian Administration and Indian Affairs (to be replaced by Anthropology 208); Dean Roy presented History 224s, History Study-Tour of South America (6) Rodriguez; and Dr. Muir, Chairman of the Coordinating Committee, speaking for Dean Martin, presented Mechanical Engineering 298, Engineering Study Tour (European) (6) Mesick. The Senate accepted all of this catalogue material.

A PROPOSAL FOR A UNIVERSITY-WIDE HONORS PROGRAM, FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF: President Harvill asked Dr. Arthur H. Beattie again to lead discussion concerning his proposal for a University-wide honors program which had been presented to the Senate at its October meeting. Dr. Beattie pointed out he would not outline in detail his proposal since this had been done at the last meeting. He emphasized that he considered his proposal a basic framework which would permit the honors program's being inaugurated at an early date. It could be expanded later. He felt he was proposing a program flexible enough to serve the needs of the University in the future. He emphasized there was need for immediate action at this time if an honors program is to be established for the second semester. He pointed out that the Director of the program, even if named soon, would have only a brief time to make arrangements for the program to begin operation at the opening of the spring semester.

Dr. Beattie explained again that the first step would be the selection of freshmen to participate in the program next spring. Selection would be dependent in part at least upon faculty members who have had the opportunity to observe outstanding freshman students in their classes, gauge their intelligence, and sense their intellectual curiosity to go beyond the minimum requirements of the course. The director thus would have as his first duty getting in touch with the faculty and inviting nominations of prospective participants from this year's freshman class. He would then want also to examine the general background of each nominee in terms of high school record, high school letters of recommendation, records on entrance tests, etc. He would also hold individual

interviews with prospective participants. Dr. Beattie said it would be his suggestion that for the initial semester the group of honors students be kept small, probably totaling no more than sixty students. This would facilitate the program of interviewing and advising and would also keep the number of students involved in the Frontiers of Knowledge lecture series small enough so that there could be group discussion by the honors students at the close of each lecture.

Dr. Beattie explained again that after the spring semester was under way, each participant in the honors program would have an interview before a panel of at least two faculty members, preferably three, representing different disciplines. The purpose of the interview would be to challenge the participant by questioning him about his work and his objectives. It would be expected that the interviewers would offer the student counsel about his efforts or even encourage him to prepare himself for later graduate work. It would be hoped, Dr. Beattie explained, that these interviews would be probing and challenging and give the student his first real experience at facing a panel of interviewers. This would be an experience repeated every year under the honors program and should prepare students later to meet panels of interviewers for various graduate study awards, face juries for oral examinations, etc.

Dr. Beattie pointed out again that an important feature of the freshman program would be the Frontiers of Knowledge lectures. These would be designed to give the student an opportunity to become aware of the fascinating things being done in various fields of scholarship and to open his eyes to the adventures that scholarly work provides in all fields of academic activity. The number of lectures would not need to be large. Dr. Beattie had suggested ten, but he said if only five or six were scheduled he felt these would be rewarding, assuming they were decidedly of a scholarly nature that would open up new vistas to the freshman students and give them some notion of the techniques in various fields of scholarship. The emphasis in these lectures would be to provide knowledge that would be a breakaway from the introductory nature of freshman studies, to give students a chance to acquaint themselves with some of the new developments in various fields of research. Dr. Beattie said he was confident that these lectures could be kept scholarly and yet presented at a level that would be interesting and challenging to students of the type here under discussion, that is, freshmen of superior ability and motivation.

Another feature of the program that could be set up for the coming spring semester, Dr. Beattie pointed out, would be the creation in multi-section courses of honors sections where the students of superior ability, that is, superior capacity, would meet with their peers and face a more challenging situation. Obviously not every eligible student would be able to enroll in an honors section because of schedule conflicts.

The above, then, would be the program for the spring semester, Dr. Beattie explained. It would involve no new courses. The Frontiers of Knowledge lecture series would not be credit-bearing for the present, although Dr. Beattie said it was his hope that the lectures would prove so worthwhile that they might be established as a credit-bearing course in the future. This is a matter not to be settled now, however, but one to which the Director of the program and the honors council should later give attention, he stated.

Dr. Beattie said that the program the second year would be a continuation of the advising and interviewing program, which would continue through each year of the program. He pointed out that his proposal did carry a suggestion that there be an honors colloquium at the sophomore level and he had suggested that the subjects for the colloquium be selected from the natural sciences since a broad program in the humanities is now provided in the sophomore survey course, Introduction to the Humanities. The upper-division honors program, Dr. Beattie reminded the group, was left as the responsibility of the various departments. The oral examination, a feature of the senior year, should be organized in such a way that a representative of the honors council would be on each examining committee.

Dr. Beattie pointed out that he had put much less emphasis on inter-departmental seminars than is found in many honors programs. He had done this, he pointed out, not merely to permit the offering of as simple a program as possible, but because he had certain reservations about the value and effectiveness of broad, general seminars or colloquia. In his judgment a good deal of superficial discussion goes on in such programs. He pointed out that he had suggested the creation of one interdepartmental colloquium varying from semester to semester, the number of participants to be limited so that the concept of a colloquium would not be violated.

Dr. Beattie called attention to the vacation reading program of his proposal. He referred to Dean Roy's having asked the question why a summer reading program on the upper-division level only had been proposed. Dr. Beattie explained that he thought that such a program could more effectively be conducted and evaluated by a department than by an honors committee. He said he had more recently learned of a summer reading program in the honors program of another institution, providing for directed vacation reading by lower-division students, and he felt it was perfectly feasible to develop a lower-division reading program at Arizona. He felt this was a matter for the Director of the honors program and the honors council to consider rather than for the Faculty Senate.

Dr. Beattie referred to the question which had been raised concerning the relative effectiveness of lectures as opposed to colloquia at the freshman level. He pointed out that he did question the value of colloquia offered at too early a stage.

As to the nature of the lectures to be included under the Frontiers of Knowledge program, Dr. Beattie said he had in mind such subjects as the organization of the universe, discoveries made through archaeological explorations, the structures of matter revealed by the electron microscope, research in certain aspects of the American Civil War, man's effort to understand his place in nature and his relation to his fellows, the nature of poetic experience, and other topics of truly scholarly interest and worth.

Dr. Beattie pointed out that another reason for proposing no colloquia during the initial semester of the program, emphasizing instead a lecture series, was that the additional work load on the part of faculty members would be considerably less for a lecture series than for colloquia. The simplest provision for an effective intellectual experience for the prospective honors freshman, he emphasized, would be lectures which could be prepared by the participating faculty members without undue burden being placed upon them.

Dr. Beattie pointed out that Michigan State offers honors sections in a number of freshman courses as part of its total honors program and emphasizes the availability of honors sections in its program of recruiting superior students. He pointed out that the question had been raised at the October meeting by Dr. Blitzer whether or not the honors program could be tied in a direct way to a program of scholarships. He pointed out that it certainly was his hope that students selected for participation in the honors program would be given particular attention by the University Committee on Scholarship Awards in the awarding of scholarships. However, he said he did have reservations about automatically awarding scholarships to students in any particular program.

Dr. Beattie closed his remarks by asking that the Senate consider giving its approval to his proposed program, authorizing the appointment of a Director of the program and the creation of an honors council so that in spite of the shortness of time an effort could be made to put the program into operation for the spring semester of the present year.

Dr. Harvill thanked Dr. Beattie again for his presentation and asked the Senate to discuss the proposal. Dr. Haury questioned the distribution of the work load which inevitably would be associated with a program of this kind. He pointed out that someone must prepare lectures, conduct interviews, run colloquia, etc., and he wondered if this work would be added to the load already being carried by the existing staff. Dr. Beattie replied that his recommendation provided that the interviewing load would be very widely distributed so that a substantial increase in the work load would not be assigned any one person. Dr. Haury said he questioned whether in practice this could be the case. Dr. Beattie said that he envisioned the program's operating somewhat in the way in which the Committee on Graduate Study carries its duties, where assignment for participation in oral examinations is shared and the load on any one individual is not unduly heavy. So far as the Frontiers of Knowledge lectures were concerned, this would, of course, necessitate preparing a special lecture. However, he was assuming that to be selected to present a lecture in this series would be considered a privilege, a somewhat coveted honor, and would carry with it somewhat the same degree of recognition as that connected with the preparation of a paper delivered before a learned society. He pointed out that for the colloquia he was recommending that two individuals be in charge of each, and each would receive full credit for a two-unit course in the teaching load.

Dr. Gustavson rose to say he questioned the remark made at the October meeting of the Senate that the teaching in the freshman year was the duller students usually receive and that little was done here to challenge the minds of the students. Dr. Gustavson asked if there had been a study locally or nationally on which this comment had been based. Dr. Beattie said there was none that he knew of. Dr. Gustavson asked if it was not rather dangerous to make such a statement. Dr. Beattie responded that possibly this was so. He said that he thought the statement was true. He pointed out that Harvard University has found it necessary to train graduate assistants how to teach before they are permitted to teach. Dr. Gustavson said he thought the October statement should not have been made. Dr. Beattie replied that if you considered the University departments as a whole, thinking of the teaching work at the freshman level in most departments, he felt the statement he had made earlier was quite justifiable. It was, though, he readily admitted, based on impression.

Dr. Muir said it seemed to him sometimes the younger, junior members in a department are among the most inspiring teachers. He went ahead to say that he really did not wish to pursue that point, but he did have a question about the number of departments which are prepared and ready to offer honors courses on the junior and senior level. Furthermore, he questioned procedure whereby as many as sixty freshmen might be selected to participate in the honors program, some of whom might later find when they are upper-division students that their departments are not participating in the program. He emphasized he was very much in favor of developing an honors program at this time.

Dr. Patrick commented that he felt the proposal submitted by Dr. Beattie was an excellent one. It is practical, he pointed out. It is not a total commitment in the sense of being mandatory upon any department. Much of the success of the program will depend upon the energy and even the salesmanship of the honors director. It seemed to him, he explained, that the Senate could not write a better honors program proposal than Dr. Beattie had outlined no matter if this body continued discussing the matter for many hours. Therefore, keeping in mind Dr. Beattie's entire proposal, and considering this as a framework upon which experience would build a full honors program, Dr. Patrick moved that the Senate approve the program and implement it at the earliest possible date. This would mean, he explained, that the Senate approved the plan as a starting point, not a final structure, and that the Senate wished that an honors director and the honors council be appointed as soon as possible. Dean Roy seconded this motion.

Dr. Blitzer said he approved heartily of the motion but he said he was distressed that more emphasis was not being placed on tying a scholarship program to the honors program. He said that the University should be seeking harder to attract superior students in the high schools. Good students expect tangible reward for their outstanding efforts in scholarly pursuits, he said.

President Harvill pointed out that the University is now awarding between 750 and 800 scholarships each year based on superior scholarship attainment alone. Some 400 other scholarships are awarded on the basis of participation in various activities, and it was pointed out that many of the recipients of these scholarships are, in fact, superior students.

The President further explained that he has a number of times in recent years urged that the Board of Regents establish an expanded scholarship program to be awarded on the basis of superior scholarship alone. He had pointed out that the University of Arizona is competing with other outstanding institutions which do offer such scholarships. Up to the present, the Board has not seen fit to develop such a program beyond a limited number of scholarships providing only for the remission of fees.

Dr. McDonald said that he wondered if a rather substantial number of superior students in the state were not being attracted to out-of-state institutions by generous scholarships. Dr. Harvill replied that this was probably true. Dr. Crowell, the High School Visitor, would be able to furnish information as to the number of such students, as this information is obtainable from the various high school principals. Dr. Beattie said that he had not involved a scholarship program in his proposal because he felt that this was a matter quite outside the jurisdiction of the faculty since the faculty does not control the appropriation of funds by the legislature or their disbursement.

President Harvill said that he intended to continue to press the Board of Regents on this matter. He said it was the belief in certain quarters that the University could not legally award scholarships involving the payment of funds which went beyond the remission of fees, since state funds could be expended only in return for the performance of specified services. Thus the remission of registration fees has been the extent of state-supported scholarships. The answer, he said, might be special legislation which would provide authority for direct appropriation of state funds for scholarships.

Dean Livermore said it was his understanding that Dr. Patrick's motion really was intended to provide only for including second semester freshmen in the honors program this year. These students will be sophomores next year. Dr. Beattie's proposal provides for upper-division honors work through the departments. He wished to know how fast the total program would be implemented under Dr. Patrick's motion. Dr. Patrick explained it was his thought that the program would begin with the freshman group this coming second semester and that these students would participate in the program as sophomores next year, as juniors the year after that, etc. In other words, the program would be established gradually beginning with this spring's freshman group.

Dr. Beattie said he would prefer that the program be implemented on all levels as soon as possible, but he would not object to a gradual "moving up by stages." Dr. Patrick then re-stated his motion for clarification, moving that the Senate accept Dr. Beattie's report on the proposed honors program and recommend the formal adoption of the proposed honors program by the University, as many features of the program as possible to be implemented at the earliest possible time.

This re-statement of the motion was approved by Dean Roy, the original second. The question was called for and the motion carried without negative vote.

The President again thanked Dr. Beattie for the great amount of work, time, and thought he had devoted to developing the proposed honors program. He said he wished to thank Dr. Beattie not only on behalf of the Senate, but on behalf of the entire University.

COMMITTEE ON REGISTRATION PROCEDURES, REPORT OF: Dr. G. D. Percy, Chairman of the Committee on Registration Procedure, created at the request of the Faculty Senate last spring, began presentation of the report of his committee to the Senate.

The first recommendation of the Committee was that the University secure a high-capacity computer at the earliest possible date (an IBM 1410 was suggested) so that schedule making and registration could be done by the computer; and further, that in order to reduce the cost of machine rentals the facilities of the Numerical Analysis Laboratory be combined with those of the Registrar in some suitable location. However, since a minimum of two years is required to obtain a computer, the Committee further was submitting a number of recommendations concerning present registration procedures which might be adjusted in the meantime to simplify the registration process for the student. Dr. Percy then began presentation of a number of proposed changes in the present packet of IBM registration cards. Before Dr. Percy completed his presentation, however, adjournment time was reached and the Senate agreed that further consideration of the report of Dr. Percy's committee should be placed on the agenda of the next Senate meeting.

David L. Windsor, Secretary