

Minutes
Educational Affairs Committee
November 10, 1995
10:00 a.m.

Members present: Dwight Coulter, Stephen Myers, and Scott Shamp.

Visitors: Gary Moore, Fran Rauschenberg, and Jim Whitney.

The first item of business was consideration of the proposed academic calendar for 1997-98 academic year. Mr. Davis noted that while Dr. Barsanti, Dr. Koepke, Dr. Manning, and Dr. Teague had let him know they would be unable to attend the meeting because of conflicts, they had voiced support for the proposed 1997-98 academic calendar. Following brief discussion motion was made and seconded that the proposed calendar be approved. Motion passed.

The committee next considered the proposed semester calendar for 1998-99 sent to the committee by the Semester Conversion Committee. Again, Mr. Davis indicated that Dr. Barsanti, Dr. Koepke, Dr. Manning, and Dr. Teague had expressed approval of the proposed semester calendar, with Dr. Koepke raising a question whether the Semester Conversion Committee had considered a weekly schedule whereby 3-hour courses would be taught on M-W-F and 2-hour courses would be taught on Tu-Th, using the same class periods (50-minute periods as at present) all five days of the week. Dr. Whitney explained that the committee had considered that model, but when department heads and others were contacted about various models they overwhelmingly approved the model currently being proposed. One of the chief reasons for having the current model is that the basic semester course will be a 3-hour course; there will be very few 2-hour or 4-hour courses, not enough in any event to warrant having them taught on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Ms. Rauschenberg raised the question of whether having grades due on December 21 would allow the colleges, particularly Arts and Sciences (because of the large numbers of students involved) time before the Christmas break to send out letters of dismissal. Dr. Whitney explained that the committee had considered this issue in putting together the semester proposal but could not find a way to resolve the dilemma. The Thanksgiving holiday could be shortened from a full week as proposed to a three-day holiday (W-F, November 25-27, 1998), but the result would be that classes would then end on a Wednesday, December 9, rather than on Friday, December 11, and exams would have to begin the very next day, Thursday, December 10, with a weekend falling right in the middle of the exam period, which no one thought was a good idea. The EAC committee members agreed with the conclusion of the Semester Conversion Committee that there was not a reasonable solution to the problem. Following discussion motion was made and seconded that the proposed semester calendar be approved. Motion passed.

The committee then considered the proposal of the Semester Conversion Committee that the weekly class schedule consist of 50-minute class periods on M-W-F and that class periods on Tu-Th be 1 1/2 times as long, so that some courses would be taught on a M-W-F schedule

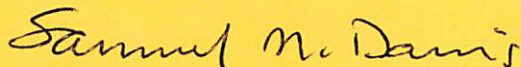
and others would be taught on a Tu-Th schedule. As for the idea of extending the period between classes from 15 minutes as proposed to 20 minutes to allow students more time to get from one class to the next. Dr. Whitney thought this issue should be divorced from the semester calendar question since the problem of time between class periods is not a semester conversion issue. The problem is the same whether the University is on a quarter calendar or a semester calendar. Following discussion the motion was made and seconded to approve the weekly class model as proposed by the Semester Conversion Committee. Motion passed. A motion was then made and seconded to approve the entire semester calendar proposal. Motion passed.

Next the committee took up the question of what to do with the matter of academic advising considered at the end of the last academic year. Ms. Rauschenberg thought there was still considerable sentiment on campus for making academic advisement optional for broad categories of students and requiring it in only limited situations, for example, for students on probation, for all freshmen, for all transfer students in their first quarter of enrollment, for all students changing colleges, and others. Following discussion, the committee decided to table further consideration of the academic advising matter until after conversion to the semester system. The feeling was that with the confusion attached to the transition to a semester calendar, students would probably be in need of advising more than ever. The committee agreed to look at the question again after the semester system is in place for a year or two.

Finally, Dr. Myers stated that he had received a request from Dr. Bruce Shutt asking the EAC to name a representative to serve on the Satisfactory Academic Progress for Student Financial Aid Recipients Appeals Committee. The next meeting of the appeals committee is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, at the same time the EAC Petitions Subcommittee meeting is scheduled, which rules out Dr. Myers, Dr. Coulter, and Dr. Shamp, who are on the subcommittee. Mr. Davis said he would contact one of the other committee members about serving on the appeals committee.

No further business appearing, the meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Samuel M. Davis
Secretary