

Minutes
Educational Affairs Committee
October 5, 1994

Members present: Professors Jeanne Barsanti, Dwight Coulter, Peter Dress, Brenda Manning, Steve Myers, Fran Teague, and Spencer Tinkham, and Ms. Jami Quick, student member.

Visitors: Dr. Jim Whitney (Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs), Dr. Bruce Shutt (Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Registrar), and Mr. Gary Moore (Associate Registrar).

The first order of business was the election of a committee chair for the 1994-95 year. Peter Dress was elected chair unanimously.

Dr. Whitney presented the proposed academic calendar for Summer Quarter 1996 submitted by the 1996 Olympics Coordinating Committee. The calendar is very similar to summer calendars of the past, with the exception that, in order to accommodate the one-week recess for Olympic volleyball and soccer from July 29 to August 5, adjustments were made in the number of class days and the number of minutes per class to meet instructional time requirements. Following discussion, the calendar was approved by consensus. Dr. Dress will notify the Executive Committee of the University Council accordingly, to have the calendar placed on the Council agenda for the November 1 meeting.

Dr. Shutt then presented the proposed academic calendar for 1996-97. The proposed calendar is similar to previous calendars, although Dr. Shutt alerted the committee to a potential problem, namely that the last day of drop/add for Fall Quarter 1996 is on Monday, September 23, which is a Jewish holiday (Yom Kippur). While this does not violate Regents policy, it does pose a practical problem, and for that reason Dr. Knapp has been shown the calendar and been asked to decide whether the calendar should remain as proposed or altered so as not to conflict with the religious holiday. The committee decided to wait on Dr. Knapp's ruling and to vote on the proposal either by telephone poll or at a called meeting. An effort will be made to reach a decision on the calendar by October 19, the date of the Executive Committee's meeting, in order to place the calendar on the agenda for the November 1 Council meeting.

Mr. Davis then advised the committee that the agenda item related to a proposed change in the University's transfer admissions policy would actually go to the Undergraduate Admissions Committee. Dr. Prokasy has proposed that the transfer admissions policy be changed to require that students seeking admission as transfer students must have completed the basic core courses in math, English, and science (at least the first course in a lab science sequence), and in the case of applicants with 65 or more hours, the entire lab science sequence. The rationale for this proposed policy change is that many students who now transfer in have not had some of these core courses, with the result that a strain is placed on Arts and Sciences in particular to offer additional sections of math, English, and lab sciences.

Mr. Moore then briefed the committee on the history of the 90-hour rule and the impact of the rule on registration for Fall 1994 compared to Fall 1993. The rule was implemented about three years ago because of a concern that many students, particularly athletes, were avoiding the basic math, English, lab science, and P.E. requirements until the time drew near for graduation, with the result that the Educational Affairs Committee was flooded with petitions to have some of these requirements waived. The problem has largely been alleviated today, particularly if one takes out the number of students who are in noncompliance because of P.E., and in light of more stringent requirements

that have been imposed on athletes. By consensus, the committee approved a motion made and seconded to move the decision whether to waive the 90-hour rule in a given case back to the college level (from the Office of Vice President for Academic Affairs), and allowing appeals of any denials to the OVPAA; further, we can monitor the experience with the 90-hour rule over the next couple of years with a view toward eliminating it altogether if experience shows that the basic objective of the rule has been achieved. Moreover, if the proposed change in transfer admissions policy is approved, this will give the committee a year of data to look at on transfer admissions to determine the impact of that change on the 90-hour rule and any need to continue it.

Mr. Moore and Dr. Shutt also commented on the 90-hour residency requirement, which requires that a transfer student complete 90 resident hours at the University in order to qualify for a degree from the University. Our 90-hour requirement is pretty high in comparison to universities and colleges nationally. Dr. Shutt said that a more typical requirement is 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours. The committee agreed to place this matter on the agenda for a future meeting, and Mr. Davis said he would gather data on the residency requirements of other universities and would distribute this information to the committee.

Mr. Davis advised the committee that Dr. Prokasy would like to discontinue the present system of monitoring the academic progress of all athletes in all sports every quarter during the year, in favor of a system that would conduct a spot-check once a year on a random sample of 30 or so athletes. The rationale for the change is that our experience has shown that by and large, relatively few athletes are presenting problems that would call for continuous monitoring. In part, this is due to the increased academic requirements that have been imposed on athletes by the NCAA and in part to the excellent job being done by the academic counselors in McWhorter Hall.

Dr. Teague requested that a list of all committee members, with campus mailing addresses and e-mail addresses, be sent to all committee members. Mr. Davis agreed to do this.

Dr. Coulter and Dr. Manning raised the question of the status of the proposal on evening classes developed by a subcommittee and approved by the Educational Affairs Committee last year. They thought that before it was supposed to go to the Executive Committee a couple of people wanted to address the committee, namely, Dr. Ernestine Copas and Dr. Eugene Younts. Mr. Davis said he would check on the matter and put it on the agenda for a future meeting.

The committee agreed to meet once a month and set the next meeting for Wednesday, November 2 at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel M. Davis

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Secretary