

July 31, 1975  
Thirty-Fourth Meeting

Minutes of the thirty-fourth meeting of the Executive Committee of Faculty Council held on Thursday, July 31, 1975 at 2:30 p.m. in the Faculty Conference Room, 250 Allen Building.

Members Present: Dean R. D. Connor, Chairman; Dr. N. Davison, Dr. H. Duckworth, Dr. D. Burton, Dr. J. Westmore, Mr. G. Richardson.

Visitor: Dr. J. Jamieson

Regrets: Dr. J. Stewart

1. Approval of the minutes of the thirty-third meeting.

The minutes of the thirty-third meeting were approved with the addition of Professor Davison's name included under 'regrets'. Duckworth (Westmore).

2. Matters Arising Therefrom.

(i) Role of the Standing Committee on Mathematics

The Chairman stated that he had written to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Rules and Procedures (Dr. K. Moore) outlining the apparent confusion regarding the role of the Committee. At a subsequent meeting with Dr. Moore the Chairman had indicated his view that the Standing Committee on Mathematics should consider the programme of the department of Applied Mathematics, service courses, and science courses in the Maths area, as they relate to students in other faculties. The Committee should also receive requests for service from users of mathematics and should recommend which of the four mathematics departments should be approached to provide the service requested. Dr. Moore concurred in this view. He suggested that this matter be put before the members of the Mathematics committee to get their views and if their feelings differ from the views held by himself and the Dean then he suggested the Dean formally request the Senate Executive for a ruling. If the members did not disagree then the matter should be closed.

At the meeting of the Standing Committee on Mathematics held on August 6 the following was approved as their terms of reference.

"The Standing Committee on Mathematics in the Faculty of Science shall be concerned with the setting up of the programme in the new department of Applied Mathematics, with service courses given by the four Mathematics departments for students from other faculties and with courses in which students from other faculties participate. The Standing Committee shall receive requests for service from the Faculties and Schools of this University and shall recommend which department is best suited and equipped to offer the requested instruction and shall refer the request for service to that department. Course changes and programmes within the Science Faculty in the Maths area shall not normally be brought to the Standing Committee but shall be processed in the usual way via the Committee on Course Changes, to which committee the Standing Committee sends its own recommendations for decision and onward transmission to Faculty Council and Senate".

(ii) Four Year General Degree Program inquiry to the Senate Executive

As directed the Chairman had written to the Senate Executive Committee requesting advice on how to proceed on this matter and at the time of this meeting he had not had a reply.

(iii) Challenge Exams

The Dean had met with the Chairman of the committee handling this matter. The outcome of this meeting was that the replies received from the departments would be duplicated and given to the Chairman who in turn would seek the Senate Executive's advice.

3. Discussion of the results of a recent decision of the Senate Appeals Committee

The Chairman presented the background information leading to the student's appeal. At the time of the A.E.S.E.S. strike, the President in answer to a question put to him at Senate (April 1, 1975), said that students who do not cross picket lines to write their exams created a situation for which he (the President) had no remedy. This statement was interpreted by the Dean and others as meaning that if a student did not write his exams he would receive no marks. Because there had been no further discussion of this statement in Senate, it was generally felt that

this was the University's official position in this regard and one which Senate endorsed.

After the strike a student from the Faculty of Science made an informal inquiry to the Faculty Appeals Committee as to the possibility of having deferred examination privileges for the exams that he did not write due to the fact that his conscience would not let him cross the picket lines. The Committee replied informally that it would adhere to the view that there would be no marks for exams not written and there would be no deferred examination privileges. The student then wrote to the Dean outlining his feelings and reasons for his actions; the Dean subsequently asked the Faculty Appeals Committee to hear the case and in the absence of Dean Cooke he asked Dean Campbell to chair the committee. The results of the committee's deliberations was that it did uphold Senate's view and rejected the appeal. The student was told that he could appeal to the Senate Committee.

The Chairman felt that it was at this point that several anomalies took place. Dean Campbell was present at the Senate Appeals Committee meeting in order to explain the reasons for his committee's decision. The Senate Committee in hearing the appeal permitted the student witnesses (7 witnesses in all) to be present during the entire proceedings. (The Faculty Committee had not allowed this). Dean Campbell objected to this but his objections were overruled; the reason being that this was not a judicial process. All the witnesses except one were union officials and only two were from A.E.S.E.S. During the proceedings one of the witnesses made a statement to the effect that the unions would view the denial of this appeal very seriously.

The results of the Senate Committee's deliberation was that the appeal was upheld. It was stated that the Science Committee denied the appeal primarily because it did not want to set a precedent for the University. The Committee gave as its reasons for upholding the appeal the following:-

- (i) the student had acted in good faith
- (ii) his actions were based on a sincerely held belief established on reasonable grounds
- (iii) his actions resulted in no harm to other individuals

Dr. Jamieson stated that the Science Committee had wanted a higher authority to rule on this matter as it felt that this was not solely a faculty concern but was campus wide. The Committee certainly did not

deny the appeal because it did not want to set a precedent.

The Chairman pointed out that up until this time the University's grounds for appeal had been sickness and bereavement. Now another ground had been recognized, 'matters of conscience' and not just matters due to strikes but apparently all matters of conscience. He left it to the Committee to imagine the numbers of different 'matters of conscience' that could now be presented.

In the discussion that followed the members expressed their concern and distress at apparent union interference in purely academic matters. They felt very strongly that this should not be allowed to happen again. They also felt that there should be some mechanism whereby the Senate Committee and the Faculty Committee should meet to discuss the more important decisions (i.e. precedent or policy decisions). The members were not happy with the unilateral powers of the Senate Committee.

The Chairman asked the Committee if he could be permitted to speak with the Science Senators before the next Senate meeting and say to them that the Science Executive Committee expressed deep concern over this matter. He would also request of the Senators that he be permitted to speak to Senate pointing out:

- (i) Science's deep concern over this matter
- (ii) the fact that Senate had just established a new grounds for appeal, i.e. matters of conscience
- (iii) that it was thought that the President's response at the Senate meeting of April 1, 1975 reflected the University's position in this matter
- (iv) a possible remedy; that is that on matters of precedent or real importance the Senate Appeals Committee power be somewhat restricted, that the faculty be permitted an input on such matters and the final decision be made by Senate as a whole.

The Committee agreed to the Chairman's request.

With the Committee's approval the Chairman moved to item 6 of the agenda.

6. Consideration of a request for the dissolution of the Science Admissions Committee.

The Chairman requested authority to dissolve the Faculty Admissions Committee. He stated that the Committee had very little work to do and any decision that had to be made could be made by one of the Deans. Dr. Burton, Chairman of the Committee, concurred with the Chairman's assessment; the Executive Committee agreed to dissolve the Committee.

4. Discussion of the Departmental Council By-Laws.

(i) Applied Mathematics

The Committee thought that what the department meant to use in clause V 2 was the Robert's Rules of Order Revised and they proposed this modification.

They also felt I 3 (b) would be more meaningful if a full stop was put after 'deputy' and the remainder of that sentence deleted.

The Committee wondered whether or not there should be a clause on student participation. The Dean stated that he would speak with the Head of the Department and if agreeable the Executive Committee could add such a clause.

(ii) Department of Microbiology

Item III 3 d (iii) was changed to read: "The purpose is not relevant to student concerns or interests in the opinion of the council".

The meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

/nr

Inter-Departmental Correspondence

*rdc*

DATE July 25, 1975

TO MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FACULTY COUNCIL OF SCIENCE

FROM G. Richardson, Secretary

*GR*

SUBJECT:

The thirty-fourth meeting of the Executive Committee of Faculty Council has been scheduled for Thursday, July 31, 1975, at 2:30 p.m. in the Faculty Conference Room, 250 Allen Building.

A G E N D A

1. Approval of the minutes of the thirty-third meeting.
2. Matters Arising Therefrom.
  - (i) Role of the Standing Committee on Mathematics
  - (ii) Four Year General Degree Program inquiry to the Senate Executive.
  - (iii) Results of the inquiry on Challenge examinations.
3. Discussion of the results of a recent decision of the Senate Appeals Committee.
4. Discussion of the Departmental Council By-Laws.  
- Applied Mathematics attached.
5. Determination of a mode of election of members and chairman of the Science Graduate Course Approvals Committee.
6. Consideration of a request for the dissolution of the Science Admissions ~~Appeal~~ Committee.
7. Other Business.

/nr

Enc.