

July 28, 1976

Special Meeting

The minutes of a Special meeting of Faculty Council of Science held on Wednesday, July 28, 1976 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 207 Buller Building.

Members Present: Dr. P. K. Isaac, Chairman; Professors A. Turnock, J. M. Wells, G. G. C. Robinson, J. Reid, C. C. Linsley, H. Halvorson, R. Stanton, T. Booth, L. Graham, C. Palmer, A. Olchowecki, J. A. Wright, A. H. Morrish, H. W. Duckworth, David N. Burton, S. K. Sinha, John M. Vail, B. D. Macpherson, J. F. Brewster, R. Hawirko, N. Gupta, H. Lees, C. R. Zarnke, D. W. Trim, R. H. Betts, A. F. Janzen, H. C. Williams, F. J. Burkowski, D. M. McKinnon, G. E. Dunn, Bryan R. Henry, F. M. Arscott, P. W. Aitchison, James C. Fu, G. I. Paul, Nora Losey, C. R. Platt, Peter McClure, Gerald Losey, D. A. Young; (41) G. Richardson, Secretary.

Regrets: Professors N. Davison, H. E. Welch, J. M. Shay

Before beginning the Special meeting the Chairman asked Council if he could speak to one other item of faculty interest. Faculty Council agreed that if no action need be taken, the Chairman could pass the information on to them. The Chairman read a letter from Dr. Aitchison which requested to know what action had been taken to review the Science department heads who are without term. In answer to this the Chairman indicated that the matter had been discussed with the particular heads on several occasions and arrangements for their review this fall were well advanced.

The meeting now turned to the matter regarding the proposed Computer Science Department co-operative program. The program had been discussed at two special meetings of the Executive Committee and at a meeting of the faculty Committee on Course Changes. Because it was hoped that the funds for the implementation of the program would get into the 1977-78 budget and the program become operational in September 1977, there was an immediate need for this to be discussed by Faculty Council at this time. The Chairman pointed out that Faculty Council's concern was to approve the academic merit of the program, it should not, at this time, concern itself with the other problems such as resource implications, administration, etc. If Faculty Council were to approve the program on academic merit grounds and if Senate, the Board of Governors, and Universities' Grants Commission gave it the green light, then depending upon the kind of financial support it received, these problems would likely come back to the Faculty. The Chairman made it very clear that there

was no way the faculty could support the program within the existing budget and staff allocation. Financial support for the program would have to be provided for the program as a special project. He said that it was not meant that this program should be competitive in the sense that the Faculty Council was not being asked to make a priority decision between this and other programs in the faculty. At this point the Chairman asked Dr. Stanton if he would answer the Council's questions on the program.

The first question involved the selection of courses students in the program would have to choose from. It appeared that they would have little if any choice of courses other than Computer Science ones. Dr. Stanton replied that the program began in second year so that the student would have a choice of four courses other than Computer Science in Year One. After that it was conceivable that all courses could be Computer Science courses. However, not all courses in the tentative program would be compulsory and students could choose alternatives for these. These non-compulsory courses and a selection of alternatives would be shown on subsequent descriptions of the program.

The comment was made that the only major difference between the proposed program and the current co-operative program that the department operates during the summer months was that the student was required to spend one additional year which was really an extra year spent at work. Was this extra year really advantageous to the student? Dr. Stanton explained that there were many big systems working in industry now and the only way in which students would get to know these would be to work in industry. Although the summer positions were some use in this way, the four-month alternation program had proven much better. This point was also confirmed by the President of the student co-operative program, who was attending this meeting.

Some members of Council were concerned with the need of such a program. The need for such graduates may be great now but how long will this last? Dr. Stanton said that the feelings of those employers with whom he had discussed this indicated to him there would be a very strong market in the near and medium future. Beyond that they could not say but all indications were that the need would continue.

In reply to a question: would the employer be appraising the student, the Chairman said that this would be so in part, but that this was no different from what was being done now in two courses in the Department where the final

grade is given by the Department and is under departmental control.

It was noted that this program seemed to be a change in the department's overall program orientation. It appeared as though the department was moving away from the academic side of instruction and towards the practical/applicable side. Dr. Stanton stated that this was being done in order to keep up with the kinds of needs for his graduates. He said that he felt it likely his department's courses would change about every five years to keep in step with industry. The Chairman pointed out that what was important to Faculty Council was whether such a change upset the balance between the pure academic and work applicable instruction.

In reply to a question on what kind of an obligation does the department make with the student and employer, Dr. Stanton said that no guarantee or contract was made between either side and in actual practise this seems to work well.

Dr. Arscott stated that he was familiar with similar programs from the U.K. and he is in favour of them. He indicated that there were many advantages to be gained by both the student and the University of Manitoba in such programs, but he said he was somewhat concerned with the anticipated costs and apparent elaborateness of the proposed program. He implied that these might be a bit excessive.

At this point in the discussion a motion was put forth by Dr. Morrish (Duckworth) that:

"Faculty Council approve the proposal in principle provided suitable funding can be obtained."

There was a short discussion on who would determine if such funding was suitable or not. Would Faculty Council do this? The Chairman replied that normally this was the responsibility of the Dean. If he thought Faculty Council should be involved he would take it to the Executive Committee for their recommendation.

Dr. Young in speaking to the motion said that he favoured the program and indicated that he felt practical competence was very important. This could only be fulfilled by exposure to actual problems in industry. He did feel, though, that certain conditions would have to be met should such a program be initiated and these were:

- (i) that non-co-operative program students not be put at

a disadvantage in terms of employability;

(ii) that we must be careful at all times that the program does not just turn out co-operative programmers. The department was still an academic department whose first obligation was to the teaching of science; the co-operative program student must be a scientist too.

(iii) we must guarantee to those students in the program that employment is available.

With these conditions in mind the question was called for and the vote taken; the motion was CARRIED by a vote of 22 for and 6 against.

The meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

RDC

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Inter-Departmental Correspondence

DATE July 21, 1976

TO All members of the Faculty Council of Science

FROM G. Richardson, Secretary GR

SUBJECT:

A special meeting of the Faculty Council of Science has been called for Wednesday, July 28, 1976 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 207 Buller Building.

The meeting is being called to discuss the proposed Co-operative Program in Computer Science. The Executive Committee of Faculty Council has spent several meetings discussing this matter and feels it is of significant importance to the Faculty. Details of the proposed program have been sent to each Departmental General Office and members are requested to view these before Wednesday's meeting.

gr/sc