

May 9, 1979

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May 14, 1979

Minutes of the 56th meeting of the Executive Committee of Faculty Council held on Wednesday, May 9, 1979 at 2:30 p.m. in Room 250 Allen Building.

Members Present: Dean R. D. Connor, Chairman; Professors P. K. Isaac, B. D. Macpherson, P. Loewen, R. G. Woods, H. W. Duckworth, K. Mount; Mr. H. Christianson. V. Taylor, Acting Secretary

Regrets: Professors K. W. Stewart, W. C. Brisbin, R. E. Longton, J. A. Gerhard; Mr. G. Richardson

Visitor: Mrs. Carol Prosk.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Fifty-Fifth Meeting

The minutes of the fifty-fifth meeting held on May 1, 1979 were approved Duckworth (Christianson).

2. Matters Arising

- (i) Status of the concern over the narrowness of the Computer Science Honors Program - the Chairman stated that Dr. Stanton did not agree that the program was particularly narrow but that any narrowness might be due to advice students were receiving regarding selection of electives. He said that the advice could be modified to open up the electives to include courses from departments such as Applied Mathematics, Statistics, Mathematics, etc. The Chairman will undertake to remind Computer Science to so do and hopefully this Fall the Faculty of Science will be able to report positive results to Senate regarding its concern over the heretofore narrowness of the Computer Science Honors Program.
- (ii) Update of the 75th Anniversary activities - Dean Isaac reported that a lot of groundwork is being done regarding details such as room bookings, mailing lists and some program planning.
- (iii) Return of the ad hoc committee's report on Affiliation - Dean Isaac reported that following presentation of the ad hoc committee's report to Faculty Council the committee found itself in need of further help. Rather than clarify the role and method of affiliation

desired, Faculty Council had extended the possibilities. As such he requested and received permission from the Faculty Executive to enlarge the ad hoc committee with members of his own choosing. He hoped to invite several members of Faculty Council who had spoken clearly on several of the problems associated with affiliation. Dean Isaac noted that the committee was still unclear as to its terms of reference. The original intent of affiliation had been to replace what will be lacking in the Three Year General Program with regard to departmental contact due to the loss of the "major" from that program. However, it now appears that affiliation has grown into a much larger question. He asked for clarification of the terms of reference for the ad hoc committee. Several members of Executive stated their view. The Chairman summarized the questions which he felt the ad hoc committee should address itself to as:

1. Should affiliation be required or voluntary for first year students?
2. Should affiliation be by Department or individual (i.e. each or certain faculty members being assigned a number of students)?
3. What transpires in the affiliation process (i.e. - what do we mean by affiliation)?

Dean Connor went on to say that affiliation may merely mean "getting to know one another" which, although it may not prove to be particularly helpful to the student, will do no harm either. Dean Isaac felt that even that would be desirable since the student would know where there is a person to contact if he needs academic advice. Dean Macpherson expressed concern that some staff members might not be particularly suited to counselling affiliated students. He thought that many staff members would prefer not to become involved in that sort of endeavour and, if required to, would do an inadequate job. He thought students would be "turned off" by inadequate or incorrect advice and by the staff members reaction to them (perhaps an indifferent attitude). In this

situation affiliation would do more harm than good. The Senior Stick said that the Science Students' Association favoured Departmental affiliation in Year I but that the staff and students involved should be there voluntarily. He also liked the idea of a set appointment time to initiate the affiliation (somewhat similar to the Freshman Interviews carried out by the Dean's Office Student Advisors). Dr. Duckworth felt that only a few staff members would volunteer. He felt all students should be affiliated in some form but that attendance would not be compulsory. Dr. Woods said that if affiliation is to be in effect for this September some decision would have to be made soon. Dean Connor hoped that affiliation would be settled and in place by the end of June.

3. Communications

There were no communications for this meeting.

4. Selection of the Gold Medal Winners

Worksheets (attached) containing the names and records of the top students in the General and the Honors programs were distributed to the members by Carol Prosk, a Student Advisor. Dean Macpherson explained the criteria on which each Gold Medal is awarded. After a discussion as to how we were to consider such factors as: level of courses taken (100 vs. 400 level etc.), number of courses taken in the year, and previous years' results, the Gold Medal for the General Program was awarded to Stephen Fransen (Macpherson/Woods/unanimous) and the Gold Medal for the Honors Program was awarded to Sin Toong Seah (Macpherson/Duckworth/one opposed). Dean Macpherson pointed out that the factors discussed above were used only to break ties. Carol Prosk also pointed out that were we to use the new criteria for awarding the Gold Medals (as approved at the May 2 Faculty Council meeting) the winners would still be Fransen and Seah. She passed around sample worksheets which evaluated these students records by the new criteria. It was pointed out that Fransen's record on the worksheets was inaccurate as his grade in 2.233 was A+, not A, and thus his GPA was 4.15 rather than 4.10.

5. Election of Members to the Faculty Committee on Student Standing

Dean Macpherson said that three of the present members (Professors Arscott, Halvorson and J. Berry) were all going on leave or Sabbatical next year. As a result he had obtained permission from four members of staff to let their

names stand for election to this committee (Professors Eales, Tabisz, Robinson, and Trim). Following a secret ballot vote Professors Eales, Tabisz, and Robinson were elected for three year terms starting June 1, 1979 to the Committee on Student Standing.

6. Proposed Changes to the Honors Regulations of the Biology Departments

Material related to the proposed changes was circulated with the Agenda. Dean Macpherson explained that, in order to further differentiate the Honors program from the new Four Year Major program in the Zoology, Botany and Microbiology Departments, an increased performance requirement was being proposed for the Honors programs in each Department. The requirements would be the same for each Department and covered continuation in and graduation from the program. The changes had been approved by the Faculty Committee on Courses and the Committee on Student Standing earlier in the Fall of 1978. The changes had already been inserted (mistakenly) in the 1979-80 General Calendar (which was composed in the Winter of 1978). These regulations are to apply to students who enter an Honors program beginning in the 1980-81 Session. The intent is that they apply to students who begin their first year of a science program in 1979-80. Dean Macpherson moved their acceptance, seconded by Dean Isaac, and approved unanimously. The material will go to Faculty Council next; if approved at Faculty Council Dean Macpherson intends to send it to Senate as an item for concurrence without debate.

7. New Business

(i) Minimum grade required for entry to a Major (three-year and four-year programs). - Dean Macpherson explained that the old Major-Minor curriculum regulation which required a student to have a minimum grade of "C" in the appropriate introductory course had not been included in the regulations applicable to either of the present Major programs. The Committee on Student Standing considered this to be a desirable regulation and as such has sent it forward to Executive for approval. A copy of the Committee on Student Standing approved requirements were distributed at the meeting. Dean Macpherson (Christianson) moved approval of the regulation and received unanimous support.

(ii) Modification of the First Class Honors Regulations - Dean Macpherson

explained that the Committee on Student Standing had rewritten the wording of this particular regulation primarily to clarify its intent. The previous wording was vague at best. Dean Connor, Dean Isaac and Dr. Duckworth all expressed concern that this regulation prevents a student who takes Delta Marsh courses (and subsequently enrolls in less than 30 credit hours in the Regular Session) from being eligible for First Class Honors. Due to the nature of these particular courses and the restrictions of the Manitoba climate, it is generally agreed that the summer is the best time to take Delta Marsh courses. All three felt the regulation should be written in a manner which would permit a student who takes these field courses to still qualify for First Class Honors. Dean Macpherson said that the rewritten regulation presented today was generally applicable but if the Faculty Executive felt a need to include a clause which would allow for unique specified situations such as the Delta Marsh situation, then he would be willing to go back to the Committee on Student Standing in order to have the regulation rewritten once again. This was agreed to.

- (iii) Modification of the regulations applicable to students who misread the Exam Timetable - Dean Macpherson distributed an information sheet which outlined the regulations which the Committee on Student Standing had felt to be appropriate to this situation. He explained that the Committee had wanted to reduce the severity of the penalty attached to instances where a science student misses a scheduled final exam. In the past the student was given an F-NP. Now, he will be given the F-NP but, upon completion of a make-up exam ("special exam"), the F-NP will be removed from all GPA calculations. It will, however, remain on the transcript and count as a lost attempt. In effect the penalty is a lost exam attempt but with no detrimental effect on the student's GPA. Dean Macpherson (Woods) moved the modification be approved. Carried unanimously.
- (iv) The Science Students' Association response to the new criteria for awarding the Gold Medals - the Senior Stick said the SSA favoured the new criteria and felt the immediate implementation of these criteria for all three programs would be desirable.

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m .

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Inter-Departmental Correspondence

DATE May 1, 1979

TO Members of the Executive Committee of Science Faculty Council

FROM G. Richardson, Secretary.

SUBJECT:

b/c

The 56th Meeting of the Executive Committee of Faculty Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 9, 1979 at 2:40 p.m. in the Faculty Conference Room, 250 Allen Building.

A G E N D A

1. Approval of the Minutes of the 55th Meeting.
2. Matters Arising therefrom:
 - (i) Status of the concern of the narrowness of the Computer Science Honours Program;
 - (ii) Update of the 75th Anniversary activities;
 - (iii) Return of the ad hoc committee's report on Affiliation.
3. Communications.
4. Selection of the Faculty's Gold Medal winners in the General and Honours programs (material will be distributed at the meeting).
5. Election of members to the Faculty Committee on Student Standing.
6. Proposed changes to the Honours Regulations of the Biology Departments (material attached).
7. Other Business.

gr/sc
encl.