

February 26, 1981

The Minutes of the 64th Meeting of the Executive Committee of Science Faculty Council held on Thursday, February 26, 1981 at 3:40 p.m. in Room 250 Allen Building.

Members Present: C.C. Bigelow, Chairman; Profs T. Berry, J. Charlton, W. Hoskins, P.K. Isaac, P. Loewen, N.E. Losey, D. Punter, J. Stewart, K. Stewart, R.G. Woods; Mr. G. Stewart (SSA); Ms. S. Catt, Secretary.

Visitor: Mr. V. Taylor

1) The Minutes of the 63rd meeting of October 9, 1980 were approved on a motion by J. Stewart (Punter).

2) Proposed Change to Entrance Requirements

Professor Losey outlined the request from Faculty Council that the Executive prepare a report regarding the effect on individual departments of a proposed change in the Science entrance requirements. The Dean's Office had drafted a report which was now to be considered by the Executive. A lengthy discussion followed. Dr. Charlton pointed out that four years ago the Faculty had moved to tighten up admissions requirements, and in a recent informal poll of his department, about 80% of those polled were in favour of retaining those requirements. He also noted that the faculties of Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, required Chemistry and Physics at the 300 level and that the Chemistry Department itself required this. If the present proposal was approved it would allow students to enter with neither Chemistry 300 or Physics 300 - they could be admitted with Biology 300.

The possibility of having different entrance requirements for different departments was raised. This would restrict the choices of students who qualified for entry to, for example, the mathematics area, if they should want to switch to the biological area. The question of requiring students to take five subject areas in first year was discussed. Some

members felt all Science students should take at least one laboratory course and pointed out that even Arts students are required to do so. On request, Professor Losey explained the background to the request for a change in entrance requirements, which was the result of conversations with high school guidance counsellors who said that students who were mainly interested in computer science or mathematics, if required to take physics or chemistry, were not eligible to take computer science in final year, due to timetabling problems sometimes, and that there was a morale problem in the high schools. She also pointed out that lab sciences were irrelevant to the production of data processors. English or history would be as good a test of excellence.

It was suggested that the general calendar should have an entry under the Science faculty dealing with admission requirements, listing first-year courses that had high-school prerequisites and what they were.

Professor K. Stewart suggested that an amendment be made as follows:

"Note 2 of the motion to Faculty Council be replaced by an entry in the calendar in the entrance requirements of the Faculty of Science section which tabulates the first year science courses and their high school prerequisites if any."

Professor Hoskins moved (Woods) that

"The Executive Committee endorse the suggested amendment."

The motion was CARRIED, with one opposed.

The motion will be rewritten as amended and the report will be sent to Faculty Council as requested by them.

During the above discussion Professor Hoskins had asked that the committee consider a requirement of at least four subject areas in the first year level. As this was not a part of entrance requirements, the Chairman suggested it be the subject of discussion at a future Executive

meeting. There was also a question as to whether the faculty regularly communicated with high school counsellors information such as regulation changes. Professor Charlton thought the faculty should suggest to high school students that they take Chemistry and Physics because it would give them entrance to many other faculties. Vic Taylor suggested the publication UMSCI Newsletter would be the place for such information as it would be available to students to read as well as counsellors.

Asked whether the faculty student advisors visit high schools regularly, Vic Taylor responded that advisors visited as often as they could get invitations and had asked the Community Liaison Officer and the departments to let the Dean's Office know when they were invited to visit schools, and had recently sent out a letter to high schools.

3) Co-operative Programs

Professor Losey, as Chairperson of the ad hoc committee, had submitted an interim report on the above subject. The Faculty had invited Prof. J. Pasternak of the University of Waterloo to visit the campus and discuss co-operative programs with various departments. The present interim report was written to keep the Executive informed. The pattern recommended on page two is the one Computer Science is interested in but other patterns could be developed for other departments. The Dean had written to Department Heads asking for their comments on the co-operative proposal.

4) Admissions Policy - External Transfer Students

Vic Taylor explained the present admissions policy and procedures relating to students transferring from other institutions. At the present time the Dean's Office staff handles admission of transfer students, approximately 500 per year. The proposed new regulations would speed up the admission process, which now takes several weeks.

Professor Losey moved (Punter) that the proposed new regulations be approved by the Executive Committee and sent forward to Faculty Council.

After some discussion and explanations of the present procedures and policy, and the effect on the student of the proposed new policy, the motion was CARRIED.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Binder

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Inter-Departmental Correspondence

DATE Feb. 3, 1981

TO Members of the Executive Committee of Science Faculty Council

FROM C.C. Bigelow, Chairman

SUBJECT:

The 64th meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on Thursday, February 26th at 3:40 p.m. in Room 250 Allen Building.

A G E N D A

1. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of October 9, 1980.
2. Proposed Change to Entrance Requirements -
A motion in Faculty Council on October 16, 1980 proposed a change to the entrance requirements to the Faculty of Science (see attached excerpt of Minutes of Faculty Council). The attached draft report and Appendix I was prepared by the Dean's Office for consideration of the Executive Committee.
3. Interim Report on Co-operative Program (attached).
4. Other Business.

SC/rmc

attachments