

M I N U T E S

COMMISSION ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

April 11 and 14, 1977  
3:00 p.m. - Board Room  
Burruss Hall

PRESENT: Dr. John D. Wilson, Chairman; Deans Atwell, Bellas, Gilmer, Gray, Humphreyville, Johnson, Lacy and Regan; Professors Carson, Fu, Herakovich, Houck, Miller, Oyler, Salmon and Simutis; Senators Grender and Stout; Student Representatives DePaola and Mizoue.

ABSENT: Senator Marshall; Student Representatives Eades and Nevin.

1. The Agenda was modified and APPROVED.
2. The Minutes of March 28, 1977 were APPROVED.
3. The University Council activities were reported briefly by Dr. Wilson.
4. Course Approvals:

EDUCATION

New Courses - Effective Fall 1977

1. EDPE 3540 - Consumer Health (3H,3C).
2. EDPE 3550 - Health and Disease (3H,3C).

5. Textbook Approval:  
"Numerical Analysis by Lee W. Johnson and R. Dean Riess, Department of Mathematics, Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, 1977, for use in MATH 4441,4442,4443 - "Introduction to Numerical Analysis" was APPROVED.
6. An old policy for excluding credits for graduation with curriculum changes was explained by Dean Lacy. He pointed out how the policy allowed students to graduate with less than a 2.0 overall QCA, and that very few students have used the policy in recent years. A motion by Dean Lacy was seconded and PASSED that the parenthetic statement "(except in the event of transfer, certain courses may be excluded at the time of transfer by the dean of the college offering the curriculum to which the student transfers)" be eliminated from the University Catalog (page 38, 1977-78 edition, under "Graduation Requirements and Degrees").
7. A change in the grading system was proposed by Dr. Herakovich, chairman of the CADAP committee. Additional grades of A/B, B/C, and C/D were recommended to provide for further refinement of the grading scale. After discussion a motion by Dr. Herakovich was seconded and PASSED that "the grading scale be revised to include the additional intermediate grades of A/B, B/C and C/D with QCA values of 3.5, 2.5 and 1.5 respectively, effective for the Fall Quarter, 1978."

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8. A revision in residence requirements for graduation with distinction was presented by Dr. Herakovich, chairman of the CADAP committee. After considerable discussion, a motion was made and seconded that the designation of distinction be changed to Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude and Summa Cum Laude with QCA's of 3.40, 3.60 and 3.80 and higher, respectively. Following further discussion, the motion was withdrawn and the matter TABLED until the next meeting (April 14). (See Item 13 below.)
9. A review of the present policy of restricting single section courses in relation to cadet leadership laboratory was presented by Dean Lacy. Because the policy affects the ROTC personnel, it was suggested that the discussion be postponed until the next meeting (April 14) when representative ROTC personnel will be invited to attend. (See Item 12 below.)
10. A review of space needs for the University was presented by Dr. Bellas, a member of the CONAP committee. Recent changes to alleviate space shortages were enumerated. The report was received with thanks.
11. The meeting was recessed at 5:10 p.m. and reconvened on Thursday, April 14, at 3:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Dr. John D. Wilson, Chairman; Deans Gilmer, Gray, Lacy and Regan; Professors Carson, Herakovich, H. Kahalas (for Prof. Houck), Miller, Oyler, J. A. Phillips (for Dean Hymphreyville), Simutis and T. G. Teates (for Dean Atwell); Senators Grender, Marshall and Stout; Student Representatives DePaola and Eades.

ABSENT: Deans Bellas and Johnson; Professors Fu and Salmon; Student Representatives Mizoue and Nevin.

12. The policy of restricting single section courses in relation to cadet leadership laboratory was reviewed again at length. General Acuff, Commandant; Colonel Brackett, Army ROTC and Colonel Aldrich, Air Force ROTC were present and shared their observations. It was concluded that some modification in scheduling may be made to improve classroom efficiency without affecting the leadership laboratory. Dean Lacy will report back after Winter Quarter data become available.
13. The subject of graduation with distinction was reviewed again. A tabulation of QCA distribution for senior classes from 1968 to 1976 was distributed. For 1976, 2.04% had a QCA of 3.80 or better, 4.12% had 3.60 to 3.80, 7.98% had 3.40 to 3.60. The committee (CADAP) recommended that graduation with distinction be limited to those students who had completed at least 90 credit hours at VPI&SU. A motion was made by Dr. Herakovich, seconded and PASSED that: "graduates with QCA's of 3.40, 3.60 and 3.80 and higher be distinguished with titles of Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude and Summa Cum Laude, respectively; to be effective for those graduating in and after December, 1978. In computing eligibility for graduation with distinction, all work attempted at VPI&SU will be used."

14. A report on "Improving the Quality of Instructional Environment" was presented by Prof. Marshall, a member of the CORAE committee. He outlined areas of concern, objectives to achieve, and seven recommendations to the Provost's office. After discussion, a motion was made by Prof. Marshall "that the report be accepted and forwarded to the Provost's office for review and appropriate implementation." The motion was seconded and PASSED. (Copy attached.)
15. The policy on auditing courses was reviewed and presented by Prof. Miller. He pointed out that the policy is difficult to administer in large classes, that there are many cases of unofficial auditing, that attendance records are not kept, and many students sign up and do not attend. It was recommended that the policy should not be changed.
16. The Final Report on A Proposal for a University Minor in Environmental Studies was presented by Dr. R. C. Hoehn, Chairman of the CUS Committee on Environmental Courses. Other members of the Committee present to contribute to the discussion and answer questions were E. W. Carson, K. L. Dickson, J. W. Looney, L. J. Simutis, T. G. Teates and R. R. Weil. The presentation and discussion extended over an hour and generated a great deal of interest. The report carried the recommendations for endorsement, appointment of a director, and early implementation of the program. The need exists and the program would be innovative and precedent setting, but would require allocations of personnel and resources. The report was accepted with appreciation and commendation to the members of the committee. The recommendations will be the subject of further study by the CUS and the Provost's office. (Copy attached.)
17. The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

George A. Gray  
Secretary

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