

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY, OCTOBER 14, 1963

The University Faculty met in regular session at 4:00 PM, Monday, October 14, 1963 in the Student Center Theatre. Dr. Weaver presided.

The minutes of September 16, 1963 were approved as circulated.

The Chairman announced to the Faculty that the roll call for recommendations from the deans would be omitted from the agenda in order to save time and that any college wishing to present any matter should call the Secretary of the Faculty and ask to be placed on the agenda.

Dean Ginger presented a request that Mrs. Ruby Wallace Collins be graduated with "High Distinction" and the record so show in the office of the Registrar. He stated that Mrs. Collins enrolled in the University two years ago as a transfer student with 71 semester hours. While here she earned 55 hours with a standing of 3.92. She completed her degree requirements at the close of the 1963 spring semester and was placed on the graduation list to graduate with high distinction. The "high distinction" was removed by the Registrar's Office because she did not have 60 semester hours of earned work in the University. He called attention to the rule governing honors requirements and stated that Mrs. Collins did not need the 60 hours to complete her graduation requirements; that she had met the minimum requirement of two years of residence work; and that her grade point average was three-tenths of a point higher than the honors requirement. The University Faculty approved the request that Mrs. Ruby Wallace Collins be graduated with "High Distinction" at the June 1963 Commencement and that the record show in the Office of the Registrar.

Dr. Diachun, Director of the Honors Program Committee, presented an interesting and informative program in which three honors program students, Misses Dorothy Harkin, Nancy Coleman and Mr. James Sims, participated.

Dr. Diachun presented the background for establishment of the Honors Program at the University. He stated that it was established not full-blown and inflexible, not as a curriculum, not as a collection of courses, but as a setting to be developed and changed as experience and needs warrant. He reminded the Faculty that it can achieve only what the faculty, administration, and the students are willing to do. He stated that the program is now in its fourth year of operation with a total of 107 students; that part of the academic objectives of the honors program are being met reasonably well in the freshman year, e.g., the students are enrolled in a reasonable number of honors sections, are participating in colloquia or seminars, are engaging in independent work or research or individual study or small group tutorial study; that beyond the freshman year, however, it has been more difficult to set up honors sections of courses.

He stated that about half of the 107 presently enrolled in the program entered it as freshmen and the remainder are those who have made a 3.5 standing in the University. In reporting on the manner in which prospective honors students were contacted he stated that letters were written to all Kentucky high school seniors who were National Merit semifinalists, to students in and out of state who had outstanding test scores and high school records, and that principals and counselors of Kentucky high schools were asked to make recommendations. A subcommittee of the Honors Program Committee then evaluated each application.

He stated that the honors program seemed to have made a fairly good beginning based on the original intent and that it seemed to be enjoying somewhat more prestige and

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earning more respect; that students in the program seem reasonably well satisfied and some are quite enthusiastic.

He reported that the committee had decided to simplify the manner of selection and admission to the program; that every freshman whose grade point average is 3.5 or higher and whose ACT scores are in the top five percent nationally will be eligible to participate; that the Committee was considering whether or not to accept some students without a grade point average of 3.5 who are good students and possibly those in the upper ten or five per cent of their college class on recommendation of departmental honor adviser and approval of the Honors Committee. He pointed out that this might increase the number of students in the program which, in turn, would involve more faculty members in more departments; that with the small number presently involved it had not been feasible to arrange for adequate academic programs that are wide enough in range of honors sections and colloquia to attract those presently in the program or the larger number who are eligible to enter the program.

Dr. Diachun stated that the Committee felt the University will have an even better honors program as ways are devised to improve the quality of advising, to emphasize opportunities to bypass courses by examination, to minimize restrictive prerequisites, to allow more freedom to select courses, to provide for independent study and participate in research with faculty members, to provide honors sections in present multiple section courses, and to provide more discussion groups or colloquia with credit.

He then presented the three students and invited questions and comments from the Faculty.

Mr. Sims stated that he had been encouraged personally to participate in research activities and to discuss any topic he wished. However, he suspected that such encouragement resulted from his being in the program. He stated that he felt perfect freedom in suggesting ways of improving the program. Misses Harkin and Coleman stated they would prefer to have more honors sections for students exclusively in the honors program; that the classes were much more interesting; that they found, for the most part, classes outside the honors program to be dull as the professors did not seem to have any interest in what they were talking about.

They indicated an interest in some other form of evaluating academic achievement than the grading system but did not know the answer. In commenting on the educational merit of colloquia as compared with other courses they indicated it helped them only incidentally and indicated the nicest thing about colloquia was the opportunity to explore whatever topic they wished and not be bound by a certain textbook or area. The answers were divided as to whether they had experienced any stigma from being in the program.

Dr. Adler remarked that the program had grown greatly in prestige and this was due largely to the invaluable leadership of Dr. Stephen Diachun.

The Faculty adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Charles F. Elton
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Secretary