

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY, MARCH 11, 1963

The University Faculty met in regular session at 4:00 p.m., Monday, March 11, 1963 in the Assembly Room of Lafferty Hall. Dean White presided.

The minutes of February 11, 1963 were approved as circularized.

Dr. Weaver, Chairman of the University Faculty Council, stated that although Section I of the Policy Concerning Community Colleges was not received by the faculty of the University within the ten-day requirement the Council wished to recommend that the rule be waived in order that the University Faculty might consider this Section of the Policy. The Faculty approved the recommendation.

POLICY CONCERNING COMMUNITY COLLEGES

I. PROGRAMS

The adoption of a firm policy by the faculty and administration of the University of Kentucky and consistent adherence to it is necessary lest the University drift into proliferation of programs which will drain its resources without making a commensurate contribution to the educational needs of the state.

Two considerations make it difficult to formulate a consistent policy:

1. Community colleges, or their equivalent, are here to stay. The University can perform a public service by operating a limited number of such colleges in such a way as to insure sound programs of higher education. Separation of the colleges from the University might make the maintenance of standards more difficult.

2. Community colleges are expensive and may, if increased in number, burden the already overstrained finances of the University. An increased budget is necessary to halt a decline in some of the most important departments in the University and to build up a nucleus of scholars in each major area of subject matter.

The University should commit itself to programs for which high standards of quality can be established and maintained. The objective should not be "cut rate" education. At the same time we should not become involved in programs in the centers which are unusually expensive. The objectives of quality and reasonable expense can be reconciled if we concentrate on programs which are likely to draw substantial numbers of students and which do not require a high ratio of faculty to students. It is obvious that employment of an English teacher with a teaching load of four courses and with an average of 30 students per course will not result in a high expense per student. But the employment of a group of teachers to serve a small uncertain body of specialists may result in expenses higher than those in our graduate programs at the University.

Functions of the colleges

A statement of the functions of the community colleges now appears in the University catalogue. This statement lists three functions, though only the first has received faculty approval:

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1. To provide the first two years' program of academic work up to a maximum of 67 hours of residence credit.
2. To offer certain terminal programs of a non-degree, technical, or pre-professional nature.
3. To provide courses of a cultural or personal improvement nature to adults served by each Center.

We recommend faculty approval of this statement with the understanding that it will be activated in the various centers to the extent that support is available.

The first function requires that course work in the community colleges be equivalent to that on the Lexington campus. We cannot be certain that such is the case at present. Library facilities at the community colleges are still limited. Adequate laboratories for a complete two years' program are not yet available. It seems unlikely that competent faculty can be made available in many areas of subject matter -- especially in the natural sciences and even in some of the social sciences.

Apparently the mix of students admitted to some of the colleges is less qualified than that admitted to the main campus. On the other hand, some of the instruction in the centers is excellent, and many of the students who have transferred to the main campus have been successful in upper division courses.

If the community colleges are deficient in student body, in teachers, in libraries, and facilities, the students who attend such colleges will be shortchanged by an inferior education. The University must not be guilty of establishing a double standard -- a lower one in the community colleges than in Lexington. This means constant supervision. It also means great care in the creation of new colleges.

The desire to allow students to get a cheaper education by obtaining the first two years of college near home is a worthy one but all of the advantage is lost if the student obtains an inferior education and must spend extra time to make up deficiencies if he comes to the Lexington campus.

Approval of the second function means concurrence in a new type of program--one which will normally not lead to a bachelor's degree and which will be technical in nature. This type of technical or "terminal" program would be complementary to the academic programs which are necessary to satisfy the first function. Approximately one-third to one-half of the courses taken by students in the terminal programs would be the regular academic courses in English, Mathematics, and the other basic subjects. Thus the terminal programs would help build up enrollment in the academic courses, assuring a more economical use of the resources available.¹

We must make certain, however, that while the technical courses are different in character from the academic courses, they be conducted on a level with the academic courses and require comparable standards of performance.

¹It is significant that we must speak of "building up" enrollment in the community colleges, while the problem on the main campus is one of providing facilities for the increased enrollment which is inevitable.

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Those who complete the terminal programs should have developed skills which are a matter of personal pride to the student, and which are useful to the community, and to the student wherever he may go.

Approval of new programs

Acceptance of the second and third functions could open the way to a multitude of expensive programs. This necessitates the development of methods for screening proposed programs.

The principle which should govern acceptance or rejection of a new program is that which economists call the principle of equimarginal value. Any new program should be equal in value -- in the benefits it produces to the students and in raising the educational standards of the State -- to possible expansions of already ongoing programs on the main campus. If a new technical program is being considered for one of the centers, the question is whether the money required could better be spent in bolstering one of the campus departments. No University can maintain its self respect if it permits its key departments to disintegrate at the same time it is creating new programs in technical subjects all over the State. There is some evidence that we have in fact been doing just that: we have been expanding technical education at the expense of basic education at the University.

The adoption of new programs involves the functions of both the Faculty and the Administration. Therefore we propose a procedure which will allow review and recommendation by the Administration and the Faculty before submission to the Board of Trustees for final approval. The procedure consists of five steps:

1. Initiation of the proposal -- A new program for a Community College could be initiated in several ways. One of the main campus departments might cooperate with the Division of Extended Programs and the directors of individual community colleges in developing proposals. Or the initiative might come from the community colleges or from the University Administration. In any case all agencies would normally be involved.

2. Consultation with main campus departments -- One of the strongest features of our present arrangements for extended programs is the control provided by the departments on the main campus. We recommend continuation of this control, which means for example that the English Department must approve of the way English courses are conducted. No other arrangement is so likely to assure maintenance of standards in the colleges. But to make this system of control effective, the main campus departments must be consulted from the very beginning. For example, if a new program requires courses in Economics, the College of Commerce should be consulted to give assurance that competent faculty and adequate facilities can be made available.

3. Consideration by the administration -- Next the proposal should go to the President of the University for consideration. No doubt the President will delegate the detailed review of the proposal to his subordinates, such as the Executive Vice President. It is suggested that the Administration should determine:

- a) That the program serves a real purpose;

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- b) That the program is one that is appropriate to the University;
- c) That the place of the program in the University framework has been established;
- d) That adequate facilities are available or can be made available without exorbitant expenditure of funds;
- e) That all colleges and departments concerned have been consulted;
- f) That a statement of the availabilities of staff and facilities has been prepared;
- g) That the new courses, staff, and facilities required are itemized as completely as possible;
- h) That the program fits into the budgetary priorities of the University and that it will not unduly curtail the normal growth and development of existing programs unless it can be shown that it is of sufficient importance to warrant replacing an existing program or programs.

4. Approval by the University Faculty -- The next step would be for the proposal to go to the Faculty Council. The Council will normally delegate the detailed review of the curricular aspects of the program to the Curriculum Committee. The Faculty Council will then present the proposed program to the University Faculty with recommendations for approval or disapproval.

5. Approval by the President and submission to the Board of Trustees -- After consideration by the University Faculty the proposed program will be re-submitted to the President who shall present it to the Board of Trustees together with his recommendations.

New degrees

We recommend that the University institute two new degrees, which will give recognition to those who complete programs of work in the community colleges:

1. Associate in Arts - For those who complete two years of course work comparable with lower division work in Arts and Sciences on the main campus.¹
2. Technical Associate - For those who complete two or more years of course work in one of the terminal or technical programs.

Summary of recommendations

The following are the chief recommendations in this report:

1. Approval of the statement of functions of the community colleges which appears in University catalogue.
2. Adoption of a definite procedure for the screening and the approval of programs in the community colleges which includes approval by the University Faculty.
3. Institution of two new degrees -- an Associate in Arts degree and a Technical Associate degree.

¹The lower division arts and sciences requirements would be requirements for this degree.

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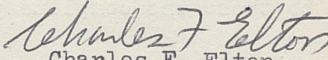
In explaining the presentation of only Section I of the Policy, Dr. Weaver stated that there were two broad issues pertaining to the community colleges which were somewhat interrelated: I. the programs, and III. the establishment of new community colleges; that the second was much more involved than the first and was under consideration by the Council, and would be presented later.

He stated that since the report of Section I consisted of three parts the Council wished to make three separate recommendations. The Council Chairman then recommended approval of the first part listing the statement of functions of the community colleges which appears in the University Catalogue with the understanding that it be activated at the various Centers to the extent that support is available. After discussion the Faculty approved this recommendation.

The second recommendation presented by the Council Chairman concerned the approval of new programs in the Centers. After discussion the Faculty approved the five-part recommendation.

The Council Chairman then proceeded to the last part of the report which recommended the institution of two new degrees. He stated that this recommendation was made with respect to the Centers only and that should it be approved, it would not apply to the main campus without being returned to the University Faculty for consideration. He then recommended for the Council that the University offer two new degrees - an Associate in Arts degree and a Technical Associate degree. Discussion followed after which a motion was made to amend the recommendation to substitute the word "certificates" for the word "degrees" so that the recommendation would read: "We recommend that the University institute two new certificates, which will give recognition to those who complete programs of work in the community colleges: . . ." The Faculty approved this amendment after which the original recommendation as amended was then approved by the Faculty.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.


Charles F. Elton
Secretary