MINUTES OF MEETING NUMBER 51
OF THE
SENATE OF MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

8 April 1970

(Senate Minute pages: 510-531)

Meeting No. 51 was called to order on Wednesday April 8, at 7:05 p.m. in the Faculty Lounge by President M.W. Bredekamp presiding.

The roster was checked by the Secretary. Twenty-four members and several observers were present. Absent were: Bahrman (AL), Smith (Adm.), and, with explanation, Boutilier (AL), Krueger (CE), Vandette (SS), and Wyble (AL).

Senate President's Report

A. President Bredekamp announced the appointment of D. Wyble as a representative of the Senate to attend meetings of the Academic Council. In his absence, the Chair read a report prepared by Wyble on meetings held March 10, 17, and April 7. (See Appendix A - Available by Request from the Senate Office).

B. As the only volunteer, Charles Matrosic (Army ROTC) was appointed to serve on the Curricular Policy Committee.

C. According to communications from G. Caspary and President Smith, Paul Koski, new appointee to the post of Ombudsman, should now be ready to fulfill the functions of his office. He is available to faculty members who may wish to bring a problem to him.

D. In a communication from President Smith, the Senate was requested to designate a member to serve on the Community Advisory Council. Enclosed was a copy of the "Report of the Community College Study Committee" (Appendix B - Available by Request from the Senate Office). In response to a question, it was brought out that the "district" which would be served by such a community college would consist of Keweenaw, Houghton, and Baraga counties.

E. A letter received from Vice President Stebbins listed course changes for the 1971-72 catalog. In the opinion of the chair, these seemed to be in order.

F. A second letter from Dr. Stebbins requested the Curricular Policy Committee to check an approved list of humanities - social science courses for the April 24 Catalog deadline. (Appendix C - Available by Request from the Senate Office). Here, the Chair felt, apparent irregularities could hardly be adjusted by the Senate before the deadline.

It was pointed out that according to Proposal 9-69 (Senate Minutes, p. 405), "Courses approved as electives for the completion of the requirement . . . shall be listed by area in the University Catalog. Departments offering these courses shall be consulted annually to bring their course listings up to date. These listings shall be approved by mutual agreements between the departments involved and the Senate or its delegated representative."

It was moved by Caspary and seconded that the Curricular Policy Committee be empowered to act for the Senate in judging HU-SS approved courses.

Stebbins: Because of manifest errors in the list in the current catalog, corrections are an immediate need. A more thorough long-range study may be indicated for next year.

Sachs: This matter has not been discussed in our department. Could we not have a special meeting of the Senate to deal with this matter after faculty consultation?

Erbisch moved to amend the motion by including a provision for consultation with Dean Geddes. The motion was seconded. Discussion established the fact that Geddes had been consulted in connection with the proposed list. The amendment failed by a vote of 6 Yes, 10 No.

Brought to a vote, the motion passed 15 to 6. Alexander offered to delay consideration of the matter until April 16, but admonished departments to carry out their own internal adjustments when these are necessitated by an apparent lack of consultation between the department head and staff members.

G. A communication from Dean Geddes was cited: "Ground Rules for Curriculum Revision at Michigan Tech." In response to the knowledge explosion and the recent emergence of numerous environmental crises, it urged the adoption of certain new educational policies. Specifically, it called for the establishment of "regular procedures for evaluation and revision of curricular programs," and recommended that "the faculty critically review the feasibility of setting graduation requirements at a maximum or minimum number of credits," that there be established "a minimum and maximum number of credits required for graduation," and that "there should be provided a proper ratio among the basic or general education requirements . . ., the number of credits required for the major field, and the number of hours provided for free and restricted electives." The Chair mentioned that these items are under consideration by the appropriate committee.
In response to some of the foregoing communications, "The Establishment and Revision of Curricula" is in progress by the Curriculum Committee at the present time. A subcommittee of the Curriculum Committee is considering the feasibility of setting graduation requirements at a maximum or minimum number of credits.

H. A letter from Dr. Guard, Head of Metallurgical Engineering, described a proposed new program in Engineering Internship leading to an M.S. in Metallurgical Engineering. Comments were solicited from the Senate or its members (See Appendix D - Available by Request from the Senate Office).

I. Comment was made by the Chair: "The so-called 'urgent' and 'immediate' revisions of the curriculum -- and the 'deadline' limitations to considerations of these matters strike me as a misunderstanding of the meaning of the term 'education.' The change of content of a curriculum need not be considered a change of the curriculum -- this I would think would be a matter of judgment of the instructor. Education is a basic approach to original thinking, not necessarily the exposure to a set of 'facts' which need to be changed with each change of wind -- public opinion, new hypothesis, or new observations. All students do not become educated by passing a prescribed curriculum. It is true, in my opinion, that the presentation of historical-type courses is essential in all curricula in order that the student need not refer to the literature for 100 percent of his facts concerning the subject. However, the educated student is one who can analyze problems from all angles and arrive at a solution within the present framework of abilities and knowledge. I am sure that the curriculum of the 1920-30, of the 1940-50, and the 1960-70 years will prepare students equally well. Remember the persons making strides today in the world are those educated a decade ago, AT THE LEAST, when we did NOT have all of these so-called modern changes.

President Smith, Vice President Stebbins, Dean Geddes, and Dr. Guard have submitted ideas and proposals -- sometimes on short notice, but at least all in the formative stage. However, the Senate has become aware of changes and suggestions in the Engineering area only by having members of the faculty in both areas. Not that it really matters what the Dean of Engineering does, since I am sure that the students will receive the best education the faculty is capable of giving regardless of the arrangement and curriculum studies. However, it is a waste of time to continually have to consider proposals which already have had faculty efforts expended, and also it is a waste not to consider the experience of the faculty members who have been developing similar programs over the years.

The latest change suggested by the Dean which might be of interest to the University is the 'Proposed Curriculum for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Engineering.' (See Appendix E -- Available by Request from the Senate Office.)

During the last period between Senate meetings, several department heads, as well as the Dean, have implied that informing the Senate about certain matters is unnecessary and have questioned the right of the Senate to investigate matters in their jurisdiction. In response, I should like to cite the following:

*The Senate has the privilege of investigating and making recommendations in any area affecting academic affairs. Notice of such action is always included in the minutes of the Senate and these minutes will constitute notice of such action.*

Until this statement is rescinded by the Senate, the policy it represents will stand."

**Secretary's Report**

A. Professor Romig, Secretary of the Board of Control, informed the Senate by memorandum that the Board of Control has approved Amendment 1 to the Constitution of the Senate. Proposal 19-69, (Minutes Meeting 47, p. 441), calling for the substitution of the phrase "Academic Faculty" for "General Faculty" in the Constitution. Reference to the Sault Ste. Marie branch "has also been stricken from the Constitution."

B. A memorandum from President Smith expressed his approval of Proposal 3-70 (Senate Minutes, Meeting 49, p. 457), a revision of the evening examination policy adopted February 19, 1969.

C. A letter from Professor Freyberger conveyed regretfully his resignation from the Senate, saluted the Senate for its accomplishments, and expressed gratitude to those who had served him on the Curricular Policy Committee.

D. In a memorandum, Dr. Ray Guard announced the election of Duane Thayer as Senator to replace Dr. Freyberger.

**Report on Meetings of the Academic Council:** See above.

**Committee Reports**

_A. Election Committee_

Patterson announced that Amendment 2 to the Senate Constitution, Proposal 5-70 (Minutes, Meeting 49, p. 458), was passed...
by a vote of 202 Yes and 7 No. This proposal authorizes the election of alternates for departmental representatives with vote in the absence of the regular departmental representative.

B. Curricular Policy Committee

1. Alexander read the following Proposal 12-70, which was adopted for inclusion in the agenda for Meeting 52.

STATUS OF ROTC PROGRAMS AT MICHIGAN TECH

I. The Senate recognizes that both benefits and problems can stem from the presence of ROTC programs on a University campus.

II. ROTC programs are currently under study by the United States Department of Defense and by ROTC administrators, with the promise of significant changes in ROTC programs.

III. In order to examine, encourage, and implement significant changes in the ROTC programs at Michigan Tech, an ad hoc committee shall be formed, to be composed of the Vice President of Academic Affairs or his appointee, four members of the academic faculty appointed by the Faculty Senate, and two students to be selected by the Student Council. This committee shall assist the ROTC departments in making changes, guided by the recommendations in the Report of the Special Committee on ROTC to the Secretary of Defense, September 22, 1969. Copies of this report shall be made available to the committee.

IV. The ad hoc committee shall function for a maximum of two years. During this period it will submit progress reports to the Senate and make recommendations for action which it considers desirable.

At the end of two years, or sooner should the committee consider its function completed, the committee shall submit a final report together with any recommendations considered necessary for Senate action.

V. Pending future changes in ROTC programs at Michigan Tech and the final report of the ad hoc committee, the following policy regarding academic credit for ROTC courses shall be established: the maximum number of credits for ROTC courses, as listed in the catalog by AR or AF numbers, which may be applied to a baccalaureate degree, shall be nine (9), of which only three (3) may be from ROTC courses offered during the basic two-year introductory program.

2. Alexander announced that because the Curricular Policy Committee has been preoccupied with brush fires and has been unable to dispose of a backlog of business, it proposes to entrust to a subcommittee the task of making a calm, overall appraisal of the curriculum as a whole during the next year or two. Such a committee, he indicated, would operate under only one rule: "No unsolicited memoranda will be entertained."

C. Instructional Policy Committee: No Report

D. Student-Faculty Senate Committee: No Report

E. Change of Status Committee


Questions on Proposal 11-70 related to the need for or lack of continuity in "The University Promotion Committee" and the size of the Department Promotion Committee. Nordeng explained that the one-year term for members of the University Promotion Committee as desirable: no staff member could block a deserved promotion for more than a year. As for the three-man minimum size for the Department committees -- this would allow departments that now allow recommendations for promotion by all staff or staff senior to the candidate, to continue their present practices.

Proposal 11-70 was adopted by vote of 19 Yes, 1 No.

F. Accommodations Committee

Horvath moved the adoption of Proposal 9-70; the motion was seconded.

He responded to questions by defining "disadvantaged" students as those not wholly qualified academically for entrance to the university yet appearing to have potential to succeed. Recommendations from teachers, advisers, administrators, or others might offset poor academic records for such students. "Minority groups" are not specified; blacks or American Indian students as well as others could fit into this category.

Proposal 9-70 was adopted 24 to 0.

G. Sick Leave Committee

Keeling described briefly a tentative sick leave plan which has been submitted to several insurance agencies for a cost estimate (Appendix F - Available by Request from the Senate Office).
H. Faculty Evaluation Committee

The Chair called on Sachs for a report from this committee, provision for which had inadvertently been omitted from the agenda. Sachs’ report was ultimately presented and is contained in Appendix G *(Available by Request from the Senate Office)*.

Sachs also reported some of the results of a questionnaire which was distributed. Ten percent of the respondents, he said, were willing to have their classrooms bugged by the FBI as a means of teacher evaluation; about one-third supported the concept of collective bargaining.

Without further instruction from the Senate, Sachs declared that his committee stood ready to be discharged. The chair instructed him to present his report in writing.

Old Business:

Proposal 7-70, as amended *(Agenda for Meeting 51, p. 507)*, for "Establishing a policy regarding implementation of approved course and curricula changes in existing academic programs" was presented for a vote. It passed, 20 Yes and 1 No.

New Business

A. Erbisch raised a question about whether certain sections of the old loose-leaf faculty handbook are still applicable wherever the new one states no policy. Romig, replying to a part of Erbisch’s question, was urged by the Chair to ready a memorandum on the matter.

B. Bayer reported that twelve more companies have been added to those previously announced as having cooperative plans for students in the Mechanical Engineering - Engineering Mechanics Department. In reply to a question, he said that 23 students are now participating in the program; there are at present more offers than students who wish to take advantage of them.

C. Erbisch pointed out that the establishment of a new undergraduate engineering degree without prior consultation with the Senate and widespread faculty violations of Senate regulations for examinations indicate the accuracy of the new designation he proposed for the Senate last year: it is really an advisory committee.

D. Sachs moved, and the motion was seconded, that the HU-SS departments be consulted in the revision of the list of approved HU-SS electives. After some discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

Adjournment came at 8:45 p.m.

S.R. Price
Secretary