

Minutes of a Meeting of
The Undergraduate Council
Wednesday, November 8, 1995
#2

Harold Lang, Chair; Coral Brenneise, Secretary; Morris Brown, Tom Chittick, Linda Closser, Keith Clouten, Paul Denton, Ann Gibson, Mary Ann Hofmann, Warren Minder, Pat Mutch, Kermit Netteburg, Ray Ostrander, Ray Paden, Dave Penner, Laun Reinholtz, Gary Williams

MEMBERS
PRESENT

Gordon Atkins

REGRETS

Gary Williams

PRAYER

October 4 minutes approved.

MINUTES

Voted to replace Beverly Matiko on the Academic Policies Subcommittee with Patricia Scott who will replace Matiko on the Undergraduate Council. Also **Voted** to add Bill Mutch to the Academic Policies Subcommittee.

SUBCOMMITTEE
MEMBER
CHANGES
95-96, #5

As the University looks at condensing its academic offerings, becoming more efficient and effective in delivering education, it is useful to re-evaluate the reasons for organizing our degrees as we do. The Academic Policies Subcommittee has begun to discuss aspects of the degree structure such as:

REQUEST DEANS
TO RESPOND TO
QUESTIONS OF
DEGREE
STRUCTURE
CHANGE
95-96, #6

1. Definition of the difference between a BA and BS degree,
2. Requiring minors,
3. Possibly replacing the term "concentration" with a more broadly defined major,
4. Restructuring degree requirements to reduce the actual number of majors (and options) offered by a department,
5. Making majors more flexible so that fewer small enrollment classes would need to be taught.
6. Changing the number of credits required for graduation.


As members discussed the points listed above, there was general agreement that our degree structure should probably be less prescriptive and more open in structure, and that in many cases too many degree options are offered. Departments should be urged to make the requirements for a degree simple and broad enough that advisers could direct a student in a particular direction within the broad confines of the major without being prescriptive for all students to meet those exact same groupings of coursework.

Members favored "options," which could be accomplished by advising but not be formalized like an "emphasis." Since an emphasis should be listed in the bulletin, and therefore was highly prescriptive, it met with less favor. The responsibility should be on advisers in departments except where required by accreditation requirements.

Voted to circulate to the deans of the schools and colleges our questions about what would happen if we would redo the "major" to include "concentrations" and eliminate emphases and other such descriptions before actually changing things.

Academic Policies was also asked to look at the possibility of changing the number of credits required for graduation from 190 to 180. Apparently big schools are moving in that direction because their students tend to go on to graduate school. That is where the statute of limitations sets it. Professional programs are more likely to have a problem with that since they already have a very difficult time with only 190 credits.

**CHANGES IN
GRADUATION
CREDIT
REQUIREMENT**



Harold Lang, Chair



Coral Brenneise, Secretary