Faculty Senate Monthly Packet January 1978

Portland State University Faculty Senate

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MEMORANDUM

TO Senators and Ex-Officio Members of the Senate
FROM Earl L. Rees, Secretary to the Faculty

DATE December 21, 1977

The Senate will hold its regular meeting of the Faculty Senate on Monday, January 9, 1978, 3:00 p.m. in 150 Cramer Hall.

A. Roll
*B. Approval of Minutes of December 5, 1977 meeting
C. Announcements and Communications from the Floor
D. Question Period
  1. Questions for Administrators - none submitted
  2. Questions from the Floor for the Chair
E. Report from Officers of Administration and Committees
  1. Informational Report - Faculty Enhancement and the Advancement of Teaching (FEAT) - Heath and Rose
  2. IFS Preliminary Survey on a Faculty Lobbyist for State System Facilities - Waller
F. Unfinished Business
  *1. Reconsideration of WR 120 - Hochstettler
G. New Business
  *1. Proposed Amendment to Faculty Constitution on Committee on Committees Description - First Reading - Hardt
  *2. ARC Motions Concerning (1) Residence Credits (2) Graduation with Honors and High Honors (3) Cross-Listed Courses
H. Adjournment

*The following documents are included with this mailing Regarding Agenda Items:  
B - Minutes of December 5, 1977 meeting
F1 - Request for Reconsideration of WR 120**
G1 - Proposed Amendment to Faculty Constitution**
G2 - ARC Motions**

**Included for Senators and Ex-Officio members only
Minutes: December 5, 1977
Presiding Officer: Grover W. Rodich
Secretary: Earl L. Rees


Alternates Present: Scruggs for Blankenship, Rader for Brandt, West for LeGuin, Grams for Seiser, Farr for Shotola.


APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the November 7, 1977, Senate Meeting were approved with the addition of Walker and Enneking as being present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Presiding Officer:

1. Arthur Buck, of the Koinonia House, was pleased with the turnout for sherry after November's Senate meeting.

2. If the Senate does not finish today's lengthy agenda, there will be a meeting December 12, 1977.

QUESTION PERIOD:


2. Questions from the Floor for the Chair - none.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND COMMITTEES:

The Presiding Officer reminded the Senate that no motion was necessary to accept a report. Acceptance was accomplished by the presentation of a report to the Senate. Questions for the chairpersons of the committees presenting annual reports would, however, be welcome.

1. Curriculum Committee Annual Report, Phyllis Hochstettler, Chairperson. There were no questions from the floor.
2. **Graduate Council Annual Report**, Harold Jorgensen, Chairperson. Bates asked if the Graduate Council was working on a recommendation concerning the designation of a graduate faculty. Jorgensen said the item was on their agenda.

3. **Library Committee Annual Report**, Ann Weikel, Chairperson. Newhall asked about the adequacy of the $12,000 for replacement of lost items. Roberts said it was an adequate figure.

4. **Scholastic Standards Annual Report**, Mike Carl, Chairperson. There was a question about the time extension for an incomplete. Newberry said that instead of the usual one-year extension, one and two quarter extensions are now being tried. Usually, the faculty member recommends a certain period of time. Also, an incomplete does not automatically become a "W" after one year. Chino expressed the hope that, in accordance with the Faculty Senate's October 1977 resolution, the Scholastic Standards Committee would become more restrictive with petitions.

5. **Interinstitutional Faculty Senate**, Hacik Erzurumlu. Erzurumlu reported that the Interinstitutional Faculty Senate committee members from Portland State are: Mary Grimes, Educational Policies Committee, Fred Waller, Faculty Affairs Committee, and Hacik Erzurumlu, Chairperson, Finance Committee. Last year, a major activity of the IFS was the drafting of a statement on faculty governance, which was sent on to the Chancellor. The most intensive activity of the IFS was monitoring the legislature and providing input and testimony on issues pertaining to higher education. This year, the idea of a faculty lobbyist is being debated. A questionnaire on this matter will be circulated at PSU. The problem of the legislature's one percent underfunding of the faculty salary base will be examined. At this time, figures indicating the deficit, or savings, are not available. A major project of the IFS Finance Committee will be the biennial budget (1979-81). Although not directly involved with collective bargaining, the IFS will monitor the overall progress of collective bargaining in the State System. Moor asked if the Faculty would be informed about the budgeting process. Erzurumlu stated that the IFS only seeks and provides input. The State Board minutes are available in several offices on campus. Richelle pointed out that the PSU Budget Committee is involved in this process.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Curriculum Committee Course Proposals:** Course Changes and New Courses. Dobson noted that the initial requests for 418 additional catalog hours recommended by the academic units was finally reduced to 322 net increase hours. This is in keeping with the Chancellor's directive to control the increase in new catalog hours. The Curriculum Committee and Graduate Council have taken issue with this number, principally in Political Science and Foreign Languages, and have recommended a further reduction of 119 hours. Scheans asked if PSU was confined to a total number of catalog
hours. **Dobson** said that there is no such directive. PSU has received its fair share of hours and has examined offerings and eliminated PSU deadwood from the catalog. **Scheans** noted that the total number of new courses is not that great. **Blumel** pointed out that the format for course proposals is one required by the state. **Richelle** added that course changes are in the total figure only if there is an increase in credits for that course. **Weikel** moved to adopt the report of the Curriculum Committee (seconded).

**Highlights of Discussion of Main Motion:** **Smeltzer** said that no explanation has been given for turning down the request to change credit hours from five, to three to five, in PS 231, PS 241, PS 251 and the 400 level classes. These courses have already been offered for variable credits on an experimental basis. This has worked out well especially at night and in the summer. Political Science is asking for official permission to continue the variable-credit system, a system which is also being used in other departments. **Hochstettler** said that the basic reason for denying the request is that a three to five catalog listing would be confusing to the student as to what would be expected in a given class. The Curriculum Committee would rather see a sequence class offered. **Gard** asked about the difference in course content for the three and five hour course. **Smeltzer** said it was the amount of work expected. **Chino** asked if the different numbers used for the same course merely reflected the difference in credit hours, would that be considered as an additional course? **Richelle** pointed out that PSU is under two conflicting requirements from the Chancellor: to eliminate omnibus numbers for courses taught on a regular basis, which adds hours, and to reduce additional hours. PSU has been allowed to separate these categories. **Chino** asked if the problem is that Political Science is trying to make variable three to five hour courses legal? **Blumel** noted that English has authorization for three to five hour listings. **Smeltzer** said that the Office of Academic Affairs gave Political Science a one-year emergency approval for three to five hour courses.

**Motion to Amend Main Motion:** **Bates** moved to delete all references to Political Science in the Curriculum Committee report. (seconded)

**Highlights of Discussion on Bates Amendment:** **Chino** pointed out that the Senate was being asked to accept the Political Science proposal for variable-credit classes on the undergraduate level. **Trudeau** noted that these classes would be offered for three, four and five credits. **Smeltzer** said that the varying requirements for variable-credit classes are explained to the students. **Blumel** said that the catalog should have explicit statements on requirements for courses with variable credits. Students complain about courses which are not accurately represented and this could lead to legal problems. Footnotes in the catalog could provide more information for the student. **Heath** said that the catalog only contains general descriptions about the area to be covered. It would be prudent to have a blanket statement on specific requirements for variable-credit classes.

**Action on Bates Motion to Amend:** Passed by voice vote.
Further Discussion on Main Motion: Gard noted that one hour of credit is usually given for each hour spent in class. Jones said there are exceptions to this rule. Hochstettler, referring to the denial of the change from four to five credits in foreign languages, said the department did not push for five credits. The fifth hour is a lab and the instructor is not required to be there. Hoogstraat questioned the rationale for giving three units for WR 120 a course which seems to be on the high school level. Holloway said that the credits are needed to make WR 120 an effective class. The state requires that PSU accept WR 120 from other universities. The course is offered statewide as a course for students with serious writing difficulties.

Motion to Amend Main Motion: Wolk moved to amend the WR 120 course description, as included in the Senate mailing, by deleting the following: "Required of all students as a prerequisite to WR 121, except for those waived on the basis of their scores on the writing placement examination. Open only to students who have taken the placement examination and are not thereby waived from the course."

Highlights of Discussion of Wolk Amendment: Questioning the right of the Senate to change a course description, the Presiding Officer ruled the amendment out of order. Richelle added that the Senate is not the ideal place to debate this issue especially after the great effort on the part of the English Department and the Curriculum Committee. The WR 120 proposal should either be accepted or rejected. Bates appealed the Presiding Officer's ruling that the Wolk motion was out of order.

Action on Presiding Officer's Ruling: Sustained by standing vote.

Further Discussion on Main Motion: Bates said that the WR 120 course proposal constitutes a change in degree requirements. Holloway said that the placement examination would be the Test of Standard Written English. There was some concern about the efficacy of this test and the difficulties in giving it. Holloway pointed out that TSWE is given with the SAT examination which most students have taken prior to enrolling at PSU.

Motion to Amend Main Motion: Bates moved that the WR 120 proposal be deleted from the Curriculum Committee course proposals and sent back to that committee.

Action on Bates Motion to Amend: Passed by voice vote.

Action on Original Motion as Amended: Passed by voice vote.

2. Graduate Council Proposals: Masters in Public Administration Program and Course Proposals.

A. MPA Program. Dobson reported that this program was formulated in connection with Lewis and Clark College. The review of core offerings delayed the presentation of the report. Jones moved to adopt the MPA Program as included in the Senate mailing. (seconded)
B. Course Proposals. Harold Jorgensen, Chairperson of the Graduate Council said that the Political Science requests for new courses and changes in old courses were denied basically because there was no differentiation for graduate and undergraduate students. Cease moved to adopt the Graduate Council course proposals, as included in the Senate mailing, except for Political Science. (seconded)

Highlights of Discussion: Blumel said that there is a serious issue if graduate credit is given when many students are undergraduates. Smeltzer said that there are few lower division students in these classes. Richelle asked about graduate courses without prerequisites. Smeltzer said that it has always been that way in Political Science and added that a few courses do have prerequisites.

Motion to Amend Main Motion: Scheans moved that new courses and changes in old courses be considered separately. (seconded) PS 411, the only nonvariable-credit old course, is grouped with PS 439, 487 and 497.

Highlights of Discussion of Motion: Bates asked if undergraduates would have trouble with a class at this level. Norman Greene noted that graduates and undergraduates are often in the same class. Blumel said that a major problem is having a significant number of undergraduates in a graduate class. Diman asked about admitting freshmen and sophomores. Smeltzer said that this does not happen very often and noted that prerequisites do not keep students out of classes. Newhall said that students could be alerted in the catalog that they are going to be with graduate students.

Action on Motion: Passed by voice vote.

Action on Main Motion as Amended: Passed by voice vote.

3. Faculty Senate Consideration of Revised Student Conduct Code: Scheans moved to adopt the revised code. (seconded)

Discussion: None

Action: Passed by voice vote.

Adjourned 5:20 p.m.
PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY
December 16, 1977

TO: Senate Steering Committee
FROM: Phyllis Hochstettler, Chairperson
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
SUBJECT: Request for Reconsideration of WR 120 by the Faculty Senate
at the January Senate Meeting

At its December 5, 1977 meeting the Senate denied approval of the English Department's proposed new course WR 120 and referred it back to the Curriculum Committee on the grounds that the course would constitute a change in graduation requirements and thus required approval of the Academic Requirements Committee.

The description of the proposed course is as follows:

WR 120. Preparatory English Composition. (3)
A course for those with insufficient preparation for college level writing. Includes (1) activities designed to improve students' self-confidence and fluency in writing and (2) practice in sentence structure, punctuation, usage, and paragraph organization. (Required of all students as a prerequisite to WR 121, except for those waived on the basis of their scores on the writing placement exam. Open only to students who have taken the placement exam and are not thereby waived from the course. May not be used to satisfy non-major distribution requirements. Offered Pass/No Pass only.)

The Curriculum Committee stands by its approval of the course and believes that a motion presented by the Academic Requirements Committee and approved by the Senate at its May 2, 1977 meeting constitutes Senate approval of the change in graduation requirements suggested by the course. The motion approved by the Senate and discussion about the motion are given below (reference, pp. 4-5, PSU Faculty Senate Minutes, May 2, 1977):

Academic Requirements Committee, Swanson, chairperson: Proposal regarding competence in English Composition.

Motion: Swanson moved (seconded) the motion contained in the written proposal included in the Senate mailing. After a question by Cooper if the motion included the words included in the parentheses, Swanson clarified the motion (agreed to by the second) to include only the sentence not in parentheses: "A minimal level of competence in English composition be established for students entering WR 121 at Portland State University."
The Presiding Officer asked Professor Holloway to brief the Senate on the English Department's plans regarding composition requirements. Holloway explained that the English Department had voted to establish a specific course, Wr 120, for students with insufficient competence in writing. Persons would be required to take the course before taking Wr 121, except those waived on the basis of performance on a written exam. The Department believes, however, that adequate funding and staffing must be available before implementing its plan.

Information Provided During Discussion/Questions About the English Department's Plan: Wr 120 would not be a return to a non-credit "bonehead" English course; the Test of Standard Written English, which is part of the SAT taken by most but not necessarily all Oregon high school graduates, would likely be used as a screening mechanism to determine which students should take Wr 120; the computer can be programmed to keep students out of Wr 121 unless they demonstrate proficiency by the written test or take and pass Wr 120.

Discussion Highlights on the Motion: Moor urged a trial period using a different approach to raise the quality of writing. He suggested a program by which all PSU instructors in all disciplines would strongly emphasize the importance of writing skills, thereby hopefully motivating students to want to learn to write better. Along with this, the English Department should be given the resources to teach remedial writing courses for students to take to improve their writing. Mandaville wondered why the ARC motion was necessary if the English Department is developing its own plan. Swanson replied that the English Department cannot set admissions requirements. Further, ARC is an all-University committee charged with setting standards and it believes that too many students are deficient in writing skills. Cooper and others argued that the ARC proposal was pointless unless there was some specific mechanism for implementation. Wrench urged a year's delay until Wr 120 could be approved and established. Swanson replied that ARC was offering the proposal as a necessary step towards improving the effectiveness of the writing program. However, the committee did not believe that it should try to define the minimum level of competence. The English Department should set the actual standard. Nevertheless, ARC wanted the requirement to go into effect next fall.

Action: The motion was approved by hand vote, 26-23.

If the Senate approves the course, changes in the PSU Catalog will be required of all students as a prerequisite to Wr 121, except for those waived on the basis of their scores on the Test of Standard Written English placement exam. The Catalog will also advise students to take the placement exam at their high school. Students who failed to do so could, however, take the exam upon entry at Portland State. The English Department will assume the responsibility for seeing that the test is administered to those who have not taken it before entering PSU, possibly by Testing Services, as is done at the University of Oregon.
First Reading
December 12, 1977

To: Faculty Senate

From: Committee on Committees
      Ulrich H. Hardt, Chairperson

Re: Proposed committee description addition

The Committee on Committees proposes an amendment to the present committee description in the Faculty Governance Guide, Article IV, Section 4, Paragraph 1 (page 4).

Old Description:

"The Committee on Committees will consist of one Senator from each division (see Article V, Section I, Paragraph 2) to be elected by the Senate members representing their respective divisions, meeting in divisional caucus."

New Addition:

"The members of the committee will normally serve two years and must be members of the Senate during their tenure as members of the committee. The following divisions shall elect members in even-numbered years:

- Administration
- Business Administration
- Education
- Social Work
- Urban Affairs

The following divisions shall elect in odd-numbered years:

- Social Science
- Arts and Letters
- Health and Physical Education
- Library
- Science

In the event a member cannot serve the full two-year term, the replacement shall be elected to serve the remainder of the original term only, unless re-elected to serve an additional two-year term at the regular time of election designated for that unit."
That the words "excluding credit by examination" be inserted into the statement on residence credit found on p. 23 of the 1977-78 Bulletin. The current statement reads: "Residence credit: 45 of the final 60 or 165 of the total credits." With the inserted words the statement would read: "Residence credit: 45 of the final 60 excluding credit by examination, or 165 of the total credits."

Justification:

The purpose of the amendment is to ensure consistent application of the residence requirements by the elimination of an anomaly in the existing rules. At present, credit by examination taken at Portland State University cannot be used to satisfy the residence requirements but may jeopardize the student's residence standing. For example, if a student were to spend a final year at Portland State, taking 45 hours in residence and earning in addition more than 15 credits by examination, he or she could fail to satisfy the present rule. The change will not permit granting residence credit for credit taken by examination but will eliminate the spurious result of earning "negative" residence credit for such work.

That the present GPA requirement, 3.50, for graduation "With Honors" be changed to 3.60, and that the present GPA requirement, 3.75, for "With High Honors" be changed to 3.80. If approved, these changes will go into effect Fall Term, 1978, irrespective of the particular catalog a student chooses for the specification of graduation requirements.

Justification:

Between the academic years 1968-1969 and 1976-1977, the percentage of students receiving Bachelor's degrees with Honors and High Honors has risen so steadily and dramatically as to occasion doubt about the validity of the Honors designations and, therefore, to impoverish their significance. It would be gratifying to be able to attribute the rise to a genuine increase in student ability and performance, but the rise can only be explained as symptomatic of larger educational problems. The motion makes no attempt to deal with such problems; it seeks merely to provide an interim corrective for one of their more obvious manifestations.
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<th>% Honors</th>
<th>% Total</th>
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<tr>
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That the following become policy: Whenever an academic department in one of the three colleges agrees with a program or school to cross list a course, that course may be used toward satisfaction of undergraduate distribution requirements regardless of which course prefix the student has used for registration.