

Minutes
Educational Affairs Committee
March 22, 1991

The committee met at 11:00 a.m. in 336 Brooks Hall. Committee members present were Karen Kuers, Delmer Dunn, Dan DerVartanian, Betty Whitten, Stan Longman, Ileana Arias, and Peter Dress. Shirley Farmer attended the meeting for Bruce Shutt. Members absent included Sharan Merriam and David Radcliffe. Dr. Whitten presided over the meeting.

The minutes for the March 12, 1991 meeting were approved with corrections.

The committee discussed a letter from Professor Nancy Rubin requesting a change in the last paragraph of the policy on sexual orientation recently approved by the University Council. The committee informally decided that it would consider the letter at its next meeting.

Shirley Farmer discussed the proper way to handle honors graduation for summer quarter. The committee recommends that the prospective summer 1991 graduates be listed in the program as candidates for graduation without designation of honors status, and that they will be listed as graduates in the commencement program for 1992 graduation if they complete requirements for the degree. An invitation will be issued to those students who may finish requirements by the end of summer quarter. They will be told that no honors designation will be listed in the program, nor will they be permitted to wear tassels or other regalia associated with honors status.

The committee also discussed a proposal from the Registrar's Office on eligibility for challenging a course. The committee approved adding the following language to the Undergraduate Bulletin on page 42 in the section on "Course Challenging." The language to be added is: "(3) be currently enrolled in the University." This will be submitted to the University Council for approval.

The committee then discussed a letter from States McCarter, former chair of the committee, asking that the committee examine more thoroughly the Regents' requirement for student evaluation of courses. The letter was prompted by a recent memorandum from Vice President Bryndis Jenkins about the applicability of the open-records law to student evaluation. The committee agreed that Peter Dress would discuss this with President Knapp in his next meeting with him.

Dr. Dress and Dr. Whitten indicated that no further work had been accomplished on the response to Dr. Knapp's State-of-the-University address.

The committee discussed the pending proposal at the Board of Regents that would require certain high level administrators to give up their tenure. The general opinion of the committee was that the policy would be adverse to the best practices in higher education. The committee supported Dr. Dress, in his capacity as chair of the Executive Committee of the University Council, in writing the Board of Regents on this matter.

The committee discussed the quality of undergraduate advising. Key problems have been advising by persons outside the student's major and advisers who do not have college degrees, and in some instances by persons who have never been to college. Discussion included whether there were minimum requirements and if not whether there should be. Some members expressed the opinion that advisers should know more than the mechanics of what is required for a degree.

The committee adjourned at 12:45 p.m.