

3-4-1974

## Academic Council Meeting Agenda and Minutes, March 4, 1974

John Treacy

*Wright State University - Main Campus*

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# Wright State University

# Campus Communication

**Date:** February 22, 1974

**To:** Members of the Academic Council

**From:** John Treacy, Secretary, Steering Committee

**Subject:** Academic Council Meeting, Monday, March 4, 1974, 401 Fawcett Hall;  
3:10 P. M.

The Agenda is as follows:

- I. Call to order.
- II. Approval of Minutes of February 4, 1974, meeting.
- III. Report of the President.
- IV. Report of the Steering Committee.
- V. Reports of the Standing Committees:
  - A. Curriculum
  - B. Faculty Affairs
  - C. Library
  - D. Student Affairs
- VI. Old Business:
  - A. A motion offered by the Curriculum Committee -  
That, provided that all departments are notified of the option, no more than three courses be taken on the P/U grading option under the General Education Requirements.  
  
Approval of P/U grading option for various Art courses (see Attachment A to February 1974 Agenda; see also Minority Report, Attachment A to this Agenda). Roll call vote required of Council members per new Constitution.
- VII. New Business:
  - A. A motion offered by the Steering Committee -  
Approval of the formation of a Study Group to evaluate alternatives to the quarter system at Wright State University.
- VIII. Adjournment.

## ACADEMIC COUNCIL

March 4, 1974

### Minutes

- I. The regular monthly meeting for the academic year was called to order by Chairman Pro Tem Associate Provost Murray at 3:15 P. M.
- II. Minutes of the February 4, 1974, meeting were approved as written.
- III. Report of the President, Mr. Spiegel reporting.

It was indicated that an announcement regarding the search for a Dean of the Medical School might possibly be forthcoming within a week.

Members of the Steering Committee will be included in budget reviews this year, including budgets for non-academic areas as well as academic. Faculty will be included in the final budget review meeting.

In response to a question concerning the status of educational television, Mr. Spiegel informed members that he had this morning met with the Chairman of the State Educational Television Commission, representatives from Central State and Miami, and had completed a draft agreement on the consortium. While this is not the final draft, the project appears to be on the brink of successful arrangement. Legal review is now necessary, which may take a few months. Implementation of the consortium by next fall is expected.

A discussion of building contracting ensued; the noise of the contractor now in Millett is disturbing to classes, there are a number of cracks appearing in various buildings, the Creative Arts building is being accepted piecemeal by the University in order to get classes into needed rooms, and there appears to be no way to circumvent problems with contractors unless fraud can be proved. Even dissatisfaction on the part of the University does not keep the contractor from receiving other school contracts. The fact remains that the state requires acceptance of the lowest bid, unless proof of inability to fulfill the contract can be given.

Collective bargaining by students was introduced by Mr. Roberts. Questions arose as to what would be bargained for, how an agreement could be signed with a student body, and that bargaining does indeed take place now, without the students having to belong to a dues-paying organization.

The remaining hurdle to the Medical School project is the endorsement of the project by the Board of Regents, and the Chancellor has indicated that he will support it, as has the Governor in a recent interview.

Before proceeding to the next item on the agenda, Mr. Murray introduced the newest student member of the Council, Mr. Paul Filio from Liberal Arts.

- IV. Report of the Steering Committee, Mr. Fritz reporting.

Distributed to the members was a list of various appointments made recently by the

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Steering Committee (see Attachment A).

Clarification between the P/U grading "option" and "system" was offered. Also at this time Mr. Fritz brought to the attention of the Council that research completed through Council's Minutes verified that each course for which the P/U grading option was requested must be approved by the Council, not merely achieve the approval of the Curriculum Committee.

V. Reports of the Standing Committees:

A. Curriculum Committee, Mr. Larkins reporting.

Mr. Larkins briefly brought to the attention of the Council the two courses listed under "B" on his memo of February 27, 1974, distributed at this meeting. (See Attachment B.)

To be discussed more fully at the next meeting of the Curriculum Committee will be General Education Requirements, with respect to the P/U grading option and system and with regard to the evaluation of incoming transcripts.

B. Faculty Affairs Committee, Mr. Swanson reporting.

A review of various professional development leave programs has been made; one now in operation at Ohio University might possibly be implemented here at Wright State. More information will be available in April.

Review of the Promotion and Tenure document continues, with an upcoming meeting of that committee with a group from the Board of Trustees planned.

Mr. Ahmad will discuss faculty disability insurance at the spring faculty meeting. Inquiry was made as to whether this would be merely discussion at that meeting or voting on a proposal. Mr. Spiegel has met with Mr. Ahmad and the insurance could be handled in various ways: the additional one percent allocated for salary increase next year could be used in payment (but this would entail the college deans refiguring salaries already incorporated in their budgets); payment of half each by the University and the faculty; payment in full by the University the following year by using tentative salary increases (the faculty member receiving the insurance in lieu of salary increase). The instigation of an insurance plan payable even in part by the faculty would require acceptance by 75% of the faculty members.

C. Library Committee, Mr. Hess reporting.

Circulation of Curriculum Guides is now limited to faculty for a period of one week only; circulation of periodicals is no longer permitted.

Mr. Frommeyer mentioned additional staff members of the Library: new head of selection and bibliography, new head cataloger, new head of processing, new serials bibliographer, new assistant dean for technical services - the latter serving on a consulting basis at this time to supply department head guidance to

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technical services.

Security measures have been taken and bells for non-authorized exit doors have been on order for more than three weeks.

D. Student Affairs Committee, Mr. Hensky reporting.

A communications proposal has been referred to the Faculty Affairs Committee for their reaction. That proposal or a similar one will be brought before the Council in the near future.

Review of the Committee is now centered on the recommendations made after acceptance of last year's Bookstore report. Any suggestions or thoughts any one may have in that regard would be welcomed.

VI. Old Business:

Mr. Larkins, for the Curriculum Committee, placed a motion -

That, provided all departments are notified of the option, no more than three courses be taken on the P/U grading option under the General Education Requirements.

The motion was seconded and discussion opened.

Notification would include listing of this in future catalogs, under General Education Requirements.

Mr. Murray supplemented Mr. Fritz' earlier statement that Council must approve courses under the P/U grading option, such policy adopted by the Council in April of 1969 and unchanged to date.

Mr. Treacy felt there had been no prior approvals by Council of courses under General Education with the P/U grading; Mr. Levine pointed out that Art 101, 102, and 103 had been approved only last year and therefore set the precedent. These are "Foundations of Art" courses.

Discussion arose concerning policy for implementation of such a grading option; Mr. Levine pointed out that the Art Department had followed closely the guidelines for submitting the courses last year, with a policy implementation statement attached to the courses. It was indicated that the student requesting this option must notify his instructor in writing within two weeks of the beginning of the course if he chose to make use of the P/U option. Mr. Roberts mentioned that in Modern Languages a form is circulated among class members, each indicating the choice of grading.

It was agreed at this time to table the motion placed by Mr. Larkins, in favor of consideration of the second item shown under "Old Business". Majority vote in favor of this was reached.

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Mr. Larkins placed a motion before the Council -

Approval of the P/U grading option for the various Art courses listed under "D" of Attachment A to the February 1974 Agenda, as well as Item No. 50 under "A": GL 428.

Mr. Treacy seconded the motion; floor discussion opened.

The intention or motivation of the Art Department in converting virtually all courses to the P/U option was questioned. Mr. Levine responded that the conversion of the entire department had not been considered, but such thought was interesting. He pointed out that the objective with art students was the development of a professional portfolio, such indicating his capabilities, where a grade simply would not. Employment is not based primarily in this field upon grades but rather upon work accomplished. The traditional academic grading system would be available to those students feeling this need but would not be there for those feeling it an impediment.

Mr. Murray directed the Minutes show receipt of a Minority Report, co-authored by Mr. John A. Whippen, related to the motion under consideration.

Mr. Whippen expressed concern that the courses in question included Art 141, 142, 143, and 442 for General Education Requirements. The first three mentioned are Art History, not primarily concerned with creativity. He further expressed the feeling that grades are a form of evaluation, or motivation as suggested by Mr. Levine, and that by going to the P/U grading, the implication was a lowering of standards, which might soon hurt the University in drawing enrollment. The trend too would be more toward national examinations, such as in Europe, since graduate schools will not accept "P" for admission, nor will many employers accept it. The use of P/U, like the use of "I", would be a way out for those instructors reluctant to actually fail a student.

A move was made by Mr. Hess to divide the motion on the floor, to consider those art courses under General Education separately.

In further discussion, Mr. Levine pointed out that in offering courses in conjunction with other departments - such as English for art and poetry - or an upcoming project in sculpturing - students who were uncertain of their background would be more likely to enroll in the course on a P/U grading option than if held to traditional grading.

Mr. Castellano expressed the need to develop policies on implementation of the grading option rather than just adding more courses under that option, but Mr. Fritz pointed out that in the case of the Art Department that "machinery" does already exist.

There were multiple doubts as to exactly what had been approved by the Council last year in relation to the Art courses 101, 102, and 103. Mr. Fritz indicated no record found of approval for General Education; Mr. Levine expressed his understanding that approval given last year was for both the P/U grading option and for General Education Requirements.

Mr. Cantelupe spoke in favor of amending the motion, in that having General Education

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Requirement courses under the traditional grading would be in keeping with a national trend.

Mr. Murray called for vote on the amendment of the original motion to that suggested by Mr. Hess.

Amendment passed by voice vote.

Mr. Fritz moved for -

Approval of the P/U grading option for the various Art courses listed under "D" of Attachment A to the February 1974 Agenda, with the exceptions of Art 141, 142, 143, and 442.

Mr. Cantelupe spoke in favor of granting the option, on the basis that he too felt that there are students without any real or particular talent who would still like to enroll in courses in creative art for the purpose of exposing themselves to this field, perhaps learning technique, or broadening their backgrounds from the learning experience, and the option would encourage their enrollment.

It was clearly pointed out that the vote on this motion would not be a vote on policy, but merely in regard to the courses specified; should another request by the Art Department or any other department be made for the P/U option for a course, that course would have to be brought before the Council for roll call voting, per the new Constitution. Mr. Fritz stated, however, that the vote on this motion might be interpreted by other departments as precedent, therefore a roll call vote would protect members of the Council, responsible to their constituents. (Constitution indicates roll call voting necessary on matters of policy or substance.)

Mr. Murray called for voting.

Those in favor of approval of the motion were:

M. Apt, G. Barlow, M. Bireley, R. Brinkman, E. Cantelupe, J. Castellano, D. Cochran, J. Daily, T. Dovel, P. Filio, I. Fritz, J. Haughey, J. Hemskey, G. Hess, R. Holmes, J. Hughes, B. Hutchings, R. Jeffrey, B. Kruger, J. Larkins, P. Merriam, J. Murray, B. Norris, J. Randall, A. Roberts, J. Sherwin, W. Stoesz, D. Swanson, H. Wachtell, E. Wade, A. Whissen

Opposed:

J. Treacy

Absent:

R. Kegerreis, E. Nicholson, D. Sachs

The motion was passed.

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Mr. Fritz placed a motion for -

Approval of the P/U grading option for Geology 428.

Mr. Treacy seconded the motion and discussion was opened.

Mr. Castellano pointed out that while the Art Department had procedures for implementing the P/U option, there was no indication that the Geology Department did have this. He felt this knowledge could influence the voting.

Mr. Fritz moved to table the motion until such time as a representative from the Geology Department could be heard, or until something was forthcoming from the department on implementation.

Mr. Treacy seconded the motion. Majority voice vote carried the motion to table approval of Geology 428.

Mr. Murray placed before the Council the second portion of the original motion for approval of the P/U option for art courses -

Approval of the P/U grading option for General Education Requirement courses: Art 141, 142, 143, and 442.

Discussion was initiated.

Mr. Filio spoke in approval, indicating that the student would want the option there, and would have the degree of responsibility to use it.

Ms. Sherwin spoke of stresses felt by the student, the lack of mechanism or due process for the student to complain about a grade, and the importance attached to the "cum" by students.

Discussion became a review of grading systems. Mr. Fritz reminded members of the attempt two years ago, recommended by the Curriculum Committee, to move to the ABC/no credit system, which was defeated and the alternative of permitting a student to drop a course up to the eighth week of the quarter approved. He expressed his opposition to going piecemeal to the P/U option, or another grading system, that affects General Education Requirements, a total University concern.

Mr. Whippen brought out that the community and potential employers expect educators to evaluate students, that going to the P/U system would not deal with the problem that exists with the students' unrest toward arbitrary methods of evaluation. The feeling was expressed that diversion from the traditional academic grading has brought on psychological testing, handwriting analysis, and various other methods of evaluation for employment.

Mr. Treacy opposed approval and declared he felt the question was not just granting the approval to the Art Department but whether this was going to be done across the board for all General Education Requirements. He expressed opposition to the possi-



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bility of other departments moving to request approval of the P/U option for their General Education Requirements as well.

An amendment was offered to the motion -

Approval of the P/U grading option for Art 141, 142, 143, and 442; students electing to take the courses on this option may not count them toward General Education Requirements.

Mr. Fritz seconded the motion for amendment.

Ms. Sherwin spoke in opposition to the amendment, stating that this defeats the purpose of setting up the courses under General Education Requirements. She also expressed the need for the P/U question to be thought out, studied by the University body.

Mr. Murray called for voice vote on the amendment to the original motion.

Amendment to the motion was carried.

The vote was questioned; Mr. Murray asked for a show of hands.

For approval of amendment: 15

Against approval of amendment: 12

Motion for amendment was passed.

Mr. Fritz now spoke in favor of approval, indicating taking the P/U option out of the General Education Requirement realm had influenced his change of stand. He stated his hope that the Curriculum Committee would begin study on P/U grading as it relates to General Education Requirements.

Mr. Roberts made a motion to table the amended motion until such time as a study could be made on the P/U grading.

The motion to table was seconded and passed by majority voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned in error; the item under "New Business" had not come to the floor. Mr. Murray reconvened the Council.

**VII. New Business:**

A motion offered by the Steering Committee -

Approval of the formation of a Study Group to evaluate alternatives to the quarter system at Wright State University.

Mr. Fritz stated that most of the other universities in the state are beginning to study alternatives to the quarter system - the Steering Committee would like the feeling of the

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Council as to whether this should be done through the formation of a Study Group.

(See also last paragraph Attachment C.)

Discussion brought out that all members felt there should be time for talking this over with their constituents, obtaining feedback and much more information before making a decision to form such a group.

Mr. Murray stated this subject would be introduced at the next meeting, allowing the interim for review, discussion, and feedback at all levels, with all concerned.

**VIII.** The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 P. M.