

William Marsh Rice University
Minutes of the Faculty

Meeting of Tuesday, February 22, 1977

Attendance: Approximately 105 persons Robert L. Patten, Secretary

President Norman Hackerman called to order the fifth meeting of the faculty for AY1976-77 at 4:05 p.m. in the Chemistry Lecture Hall.

Eight items were announced as agenda in the February 14 notice for the meeting.

1. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting, January 24, 1977, as previously circulated.

The minutes were approved without objection.

2. Date of the next meeting.

President Hackerman informed the faculty that the sixth meeting for AY1976-77 has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 22, at 4 p.m. in the Chemistry Lecture Hall.

3. Announcements by Dr. Hackerman.

The President has received the report of the committee on co-ed colleges; it will be published by mid-March.

4. Second reading on a recommendation for a proposed Master of Business and Public Management degree (MBPM) to be offered by the Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Administration, as approved by the Graduate Council and the University Council and passed on first reading by the faculty January 24.

Mr. Sterling moved, Mr. Carrington seconded,

THAT the proposed degree program (MBPM) be approved on second reading.

There was no discussion. The motion PASSED unanimously.

5. a. Second reading on paragraph a of a recommendation from the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, as amended and approved by the University Council, changing graduation requirements and major requirements from semester courses to semester credit hours.

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- b. Since January 24, the University Council has approved a change in paragraphs e and f as follows:

an addition to paragraph e listing the maximum semester credit hours which the department may specify for the B.S. in all branches of engineering except Chemical Engineering as 92;

deletion of paragraph f.

(A copy of the entire proposal, incorporating these changes, was attached to the notice of the meeting.)

- a. Mr. Philpott moved, Mr. Pfeiffer seconded,

THAT paragraph a be approved on second reading.

Mr. Adams asked when the change would take place. Mr. Hackerman replied that students now enrolled would graduate under the old system, but have the option of switching to the new, as of the date it becomes effective. A separate motion would be in order later to specify the date of implementation.

The motion then PASSED with scattered noes.

- b. Mr. Philpott moved, Mr. Feustel seconded,

THAT students completing a Bachelor of Arts degree or a Bachelor of Science degree in one of the several branches of engineering must pass no less than the following number of semester credit hours in the various curricula:

Humanities, Social Sciences, Mathematics and Mathematical Sciences	124
Natural Sciences and Engineering, except B.S. in Chemical Engineering	134
Chemical Engineering (B.S.)	137
Architecture	130

Mr. Brody, noting that the 124 hour requirement included four hours more than the equivalent of forty three-hour courses, asked if the additional hours were added for lab courses. Mr. Philpott replied that in the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee the discussion had not been limited to lab science courses, but had also included special tutorial sections and labs in language courses. Mr. Brody and Mr. Grob pointed out that a student might therefore take more than forty courses in order to meet the minimum graduation requirements, or fewer, Mr. Grob added, if the

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Humanities or Social Science major took many four-hour science or language courses.

The motion PASSED with 19 noes.

- c. Mr. Philpott moved, Ms. Schnoebelen seconded,

THAT students completing Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees, to be awarded simultaneously at the end of a combined curriculum, must pass not less than 150 semester hours.

Mr. Carrington inquired about the proportion of semester credit hours that would derive from practice, rather than classroom work. Mr. Michel observed that practice sessions are now listed as three-credit courses. Ms. Brown clarified for Mr. Dowden that a music student does not get a Bachelor's degree at the end of the fourth year, because he or she does not complete the University's distribution requirements until the end of the fifth year. Mr. Michel noted that it was hard to disagree with c after b was passed, but expressed reservations about the whole conversion pattern: "it lacks elegance in the extreme."

The motion PASSED with two noes.

- d. Mr. Philpott moved, Mr. Carrington seconded,

THAT in order to fulfill the University distribution requirements, as described in the General Announcements, students must pass at least three semester hours in five of the six subject categories and at least twelve semester credit hours in each of the three groups designated by Roman numerals.

Mr. Grob moved, Mr. Huston seconded, an Amendment:

THAT "at least twelve semester credit hours" be changed to read "at least four courses totalling at least twelve semester credit hours"

In defense of his amendment, Mr. Grob explained that it preserved intact the current distribution requirement of four courses, whereas the original proposed translation into semester credit hours allowed three courses of four hours each to fulfill the same distribution requirement.

Several members of the faculty spoke in favor of three four-hour courses, and thus opposed the Amendment; others defended it as translating exactly the present distribution requirements. Mr. Giannoni asked if lab courses were to

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be counted separately. Mr. Hackerman replied that they did not now have that status, but that their status under the new hour system should be defined.

The Amendment PASSED on a divided vote, 58 for, approximately 20 opposed.

Mr. Krah1 thought it might be necessary, at this juncture, to define a course in such ways that students could not evade the spirit of this proposal; the problem was referred to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.

The main motion, as amended, then PASSED with two opposed.

e. Mr. Philpott moved, Mr. D. G. Parsons seconded,

THAT in establishing a departmental major for the Bachelor of Arts or the Bachelor of Science in the various branches of Engineering with the exception of Chemical Engineering, no department may specify more than the following number of semester credit hours in the various curricula, required courses within or outside the department, pre-requisites and related courses included:

Humanities and Social Sciences	60
Mathematics and Mathematical Sciences	64
Natural Sciences and Engineering (B.A.)	74
Architecture	92
Engineering (B.S.) except B.S. in Chemical Engineering	92

Three important questions of interpretation were referred to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee for recommendations:

1. If language departments give hour credits for labs, will they be prohibited from requiring up to twenty courses?
2. Programs like Managerial Studies overlap two different areas. Which limit applies?
3. Students seeking their Texas teaching certificate will probably have to exceed the 60 hour limit. May they?

The motion then PASSED with scattered noes.

f. Deleted.

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- g. Mr. Philpott moved, Mr. Chapman seconded,

THAT for a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering, the department may specify no more than the semester credit hours necessary to meet the requirements of the accrediting agency, up to a maximum total of 104 hours.

The motion PASSED with four noes.

- h. Mr. Philpott moved, Ms. Schnoebelen seconded,

THAT in establishing the curriculum for a Bachelor of Music and a Master of Music degree, to be awarded simultaneously, the School of Music may not specify more than 102 semester credit hours.

The motion PASSED unanimously.

- i. Mr. Philpott moved, Mr. Rimlinger seconded,

THAT the assignment of semester credit hours to current or future courses should be subject to the supervision and approval of the department and the divisional dean, and that a procedure should be established, similar to the current procedure for approving new courses, to provide an overall review of all changes resulting from this shift to semester credit hours, such procedure to include approval by the appropriate department chairmen, deans, and the provost.

The motion PASSED with one dissent.

- j. Mr. Philpott moved, Mr. D. G. Parsons seconded,

THAT not less than 48 semester credit hours completed in fulfillment of the degree requirements must be on an advanced level (numbered 300 or higher), and that other necessary changes in the wording of the academic regulations should be made in the spirit of the above recommendations.

The motion PASSED with one dissent.

The President asked that any questions about how the change to semester credit hours will affect particular programs be forwarded to him. The change also applies to graduate programs, the President ruled. Mr. Chapman moved that the effective date of implementation be Fall 1977, but withdrew his motion until a study could be made of the problems involved in converting so quickly. Mr. Hackerman suggested that Mr. Chapman could tell the accrediting committee that the faculty has approved the conversion in principle, and that the University is moving towards

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the new system now. Ms. Brown thought it was in the spirit of the motions just passed that Chemical Engineering could require more than the present number of courses for majors, up to the new limits in semester credit hours.

Paragraphs b through j will be submitted to the faculty for a second reading at the March 22 meeting.

6. A recommendation from the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, as amended and approved by the University Council, establishing an English requirement for all entering undergraduate students for the improvement of their writing skills to be taken in the student's first year at Rice. (A copy of the recommendation was attached to the February 14 notice of the meeting.)

Mr. Philpott moved, Mr. Van Helden seconded:

THAT every student entering undergraduate study at Rice be required to take during his or her first year and to complete successfully before graduation, either English 101 or English 103, both of which will emphasize writing skills. The Council also recommends that a required placement examination be given during orientation for new students to determine whether a student should take English 101 or English 103. Finally, the Council recommends that students be permitted to petition the English department either to fulfill the requirement by substituting another English course or an appropriate course in another department or to be exempt from the requirement.

Mr. Philpott explained that the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee envisaged this motion as part of a two tier system, with some proposal about upper-level writing courses to be brought before the faculty at a later date. He outlined various alternatives for the first tier, and explained why the committee felt the present recommendation most appropriate. A suggestion to spread responsibility for helping entering students with their writing among all introductory courses turned out not to be feasible, either because departments lacked the manpower or because in some areas, like beginning languages, it was not appropriate to concentrate on writing English.

Mr. Thrall moved, Mr. Brody seconded,

THAT the motion be postponed to the March 22 meeting, and that the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee supply, prior to that meeting, information concerning the following questions:

1. Why must the course be taken in the freshman year?
2. Does the course fulfill distribution requirements?
3. What are acceptable substitutes, and what criteria are used to determine them?