

I. Approval of Minutes.

Chairman Coolidge called the Senate to order. The minutes of the April meeting were approved as submitted.

Chairman Coolidge announced that the summer meeting of the Faculty Senate is scheduled for July 7, 1981, at 3:00 p.m. in Gambrell Hall.

II. Reports of Officers.

A. President James B. Holderman:

The President remarked on the current status of the desegregation action, and was optimistic about the South Carolina budget and scheduled salary increases for faculty and staff. He announced that astronauts Young and Crippen would be commencement speakers, underscored by the music of John Williams, conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra. All three would receive honorary degrees, the university being the first academic institution to so honor the pilots of the "Columbia."

Professor Moore, Government and International Studies, asked whether thought was being given to an award for public service, in addition to the faculty awards for research and excellence in teaching. The president replied that such a plan was being considered and that he hoped it could be financed by next year.

B. George Curry, Secretary to the Board of Trustees:

Dr. Curry, having resigned from his position effective by the end of the current academic year, said good-bye to the faculty. He stressed that as Secretary he had not only had the right and prerogatives of the Board in mind but also those of the faculty, thanked the faculty for its unflinching cooperation and support, expressed his delight at having had the pleasure for a great number of years of being a member of the faculty, and wished the faculty continued prosperity.

III. Reports of Committees.

A. Grade Change Committee, Professor Keith Berkeley, Chairman:

On behalf of his committee, Professor Berkeley moved the adoption of his recommendations and the grade changes were approved as submitted.

B. Curricula and Courses Committee, Professor John L. Safko, Chairman:

With a few minor editorial changes, the recommendations of the committee were approved as submitted.

C. Faculty Advisory Committee, Professor John Kimmey, Chairman:

Having been requested by the Senate to look into the way grade changes are handled, the Faculty Advisory Committee moved the adoption of a change in the wording of the pertinent passage in the Faculty Manual. Professor Eccles, Engineering, objected to the change as not solving the problem and introduced a substitute motion to the effect that beginning with the fall semester 1981 all grade changes be handled exclusively by the Scholastic Standards and Petitions Committee of the college or school in which the course in question is offered. The University Scholastic Standards and Petitions Committee shall report annually to the Faculty Senate a summary of the grade change activity in each college and school. The Faculty Grade Change Committee shall be abolished.

Apprised of the procedural difficulties involved in changing only a small portion of the paragraph in the Faculty Manual, Professor Eccles withdrew his motion in order to reintroduce it under New Business. Professor Kimmey's original motion was then approved.

Professor Kimmey drew attention to the immense workload of the Faculty Advisory Committee during the past two years. During this time, in a total of 50 committee sessions, the committee produced the academic grievance procedures, the faculty performance review, procedures for termination of tenured faculty, a policy on faculty files, the current tenure and promotion procedure, and a policy governing the probationary faculty. He thanked the committee members and the Provost and Associate Provost Ackerman for their long hours of work and their devotion to the interests of the faculty.

D. Scholastic Standards and Petitions Committee, Professor Joseph P. Ryan, Chairman:

Professor Ryan, referring to the new policy of grade point deficiencies, mentioned that it was not clear whether what was meant was "greater than 24" or "24 or greater," even though it was the intention of the committee to mean "24 or greater." Professor Mercer observed that it would be advisable to accept "greater than 24" for the current year and to change to the committee's definition only during the coming year.

Professor Ryan introduced the College of Journalism's entrance, progression, and retention policies. As there were no objections from the Senate, the policy will go into effect automatically.

With respect to the proposed policy governing class attendance, Professor Howard-Hill submitted an amendment in order to change the third sentence of the first paragraph to read "When absences exceed twice the number of scheduled class meetings a week or three class meetings in a summer term, a grade penalty (which may include the grade of F) will be applied," and he explained that his amendment would permit the faculty greater leeway in assigning grades. Associate Dean Simpson, Engineering, objected on the grounds that adoption of the amendment would merely be a return to the status quo. Professor Curry, Music, moved an amendment to the amendment so that the final portion of the sentence would read "may be applied." Professor Howard-Hill opposed the amendment to the amendment

because if it were adopted the University would purport to have an attendance policy while in fact it would have none, leaving the decision up to each individual instructor. Professor Sederberg, Government and International Studies, supported Professor Curry's motion because it would allow the instructor to take into consideration such variables as differences in classes, differences in colleges, and differences in levels and approaches. He regarded the more stringent version as an infringement of his classroom authority.

The Senate then approved the amendment to the amendment and followed this with an approval of the amended amendment. A lengthy discussion of the relative merits of an attendance policy followed. Under the proposal, students would be required to attend 86% of their classes instead of the currently required 75%, taking into account that what goes on in the classroom is important. If attendance were not important, professors could teach just as effectively by correspondence. Objections were that the proposal makes no allowances for illnesses and other excused absences, that if a stringent attendance policy be imposed on the students professors likewise ought to be mandated to hold classes, that the proposal does not allow for the fact that according to the Faculty Manual grades should reflect the degree of mastery of a subject, and that currently credit for a course can be obtained through examination and, in the case of foreign languages, by taking higher-level courses, in neither case requiring attendance. When called upon to make a decision, the Senate assigned the grade of F to the proposal.

Section III of the committee's report was withdrawn.

E. University Scholarship and Student Financial Aid Committee:

On behalf of his committee, Assistant Vice President Alexander introduced his committee's report.

IV. Report of Secretary.

Professor Becker transmitted Associate Provost Ackerman's reminder that tear sheets for the new issue of the Bulletin are past due.

V. Unfinished Business - None.

VI. New Business.

Professor Eccles moved that any grade change be handled entirely by the Scholastic Standards and Petitions Committee of the college or school in which the course in question is offered. The Faculty Senate will receive annually through the University Scholastic Standards and Petitions Committee a summary of the grade change activities of each college and school. The change would become effective on the first day of the fall 1981 semester.

After a brief discussion, Professor Gardner, General Studies, moved that the proposal be referred to the appropriate committee and his motion was passed.

The Psychology Department wondered whether, in the days of the computer, it is still necessary to turn in grades for graduating seniors so long before the end of the semester. Chairman Coolidge assigned the matter to the Scholastic Standards and Petitions Committee.

VII. Good of the Order.

Professor Carmel Ingebretsen, Medicine, suggested that the question of having to pay Social Security contributions instead of being permitted to withdraw from the system be examined again. Chairman Coolidge indicated that the Faculty Welfare Committee would make a report on the matter to the Senate.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.