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## Campus Assembly minutes 02/07/1977

Campus Assembly

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University of Minnesota, Morris  
Campus Assembly Meeting Minutes  
February 7, 1977

The following curricular proposals from the Curriculum Committee were considered:

- 76-21 Anthropology - passed
- 76-22 Business Economics - under "Requirements for a minor" strike the first sentence. The first sentence should read as follows: "Substitute BuEc 3220 for 3210, CSci 1110; CSci 3100 or CSci 3110 for Math 3600." Add Math 1140 as a prereq for BE 3200 and BE 3215. - passed
- 76-23 Economics - passed
- 76-25 Political Science - passed
- 76-26 Psychology - passed
- 76-27 Sociology - passed
- 76-28 Sociology - passed
- 76-30 Interdisciplinary Field Studies in Science - passed
- 76-31 French -

Among members of the Curriculum Committee opinion was closely divided about the deletion of the French major. There does not appear to be enough interest in language (only 1 out of 5 students have a foreign language in high school) to justify offering three languages, German, Spanish, and French.

Professor W.D. Spring called attention to the gravity of the situation. Only one other undergraduate college in the State does not offer French. This action could jeopardize our position as a strong liberal arts college.

To a question raised about reinstating the foreign language requirement, Gordon Bopp, the Academic Dean, explained that the general education requirements is an item on the agenda of the Curriculum Committee.

Professor Eric Klinger raised a question about the type of students who are recruited. Spring responded that the elimination of the GER language requirement five years ago brought about a change in high school curriculums. Many of the schools from which UMM recruits students no longer have language programs. The College of Liberal Arts (CLA) on the Minneapolis Campus retains a 25 credit language requirement and the metropolitan high schools do offer languages.

Other private liberal arts colleges do not require language, but because their students are from a different socio-economic and educational background, the comparison might not be a valid one.

Ruth Retzlaff provided information about a student survey which indicates that out of 1623 of our students, 250 indicated some interest in language.

Bob Vikander, Admissions Director, asserted that 80 per cent of our students come from outside the Twin Cities area. We do draw from small town high schools which are reducing their offerings in language. It appeared to him that CLA does dictate to the metropolitan schools what their language programs are.

Professor Jay Roshal wanted to know if we eliminate a program simply because students are no longer prepared? What college no longer offers French? (answer Winona State University). Can the GER language requirement be reinstated?

Professor Spring recalled the vote taken to remove the requirement; how the difficulty of faculty positions and the redistribution of resources is a critical question, even though this body (the Campus Assembly) is not concerned about feasibility.

Professor Harold Hinds wished to know what would happen if French was eliminated? Would the other languages benefit? Could we diversify and make them more attractive?

Professor Spring thought to offer more would further weaken the program. The interest has plunged.

Dean Bopp agreed that when only three degrees are granted, there is a serious problem.

Professor Bert Ahern was disturbed by the elimination of French, especially since the decision is coming on the basis of resource allocation and not on programmatic grounds.

Professor Spring said the question is one of retrenchment. French courses were not being filled. At one time, our campus was headed for an enrollment of 2,000 students. Unfortunately, at the moment when adequate facilities became available, faculty was curtailed. The arts were especially hurt by this situation. The new Fine Arts Building cries aloud for twice the staff. Additional faculty are needed in other areas.

Professor Roshal wanted to know if the foreign language requirement could be changed by the Curriculum Committee?

Dean Bopp answered that the GER would be reconsidered.

Professor Roshal believes that something other than the marketplace operates in the selection of majors.

Professor Burnes asked about the consequences if the proposal were defeated.

Professor Spring answered that another position would have to be found somewhere.

Professor Raymond Lammers wanted it understood that pressure from speech and theatre had nothing to do with the decision to eliminate the French major.

Professor Jim Olson believed that the redistribution of resources is a real problem. Everyone would like to see some new positions. It struck him that it is impossible to redistribute on this small campus. This first cut is going to be the hardest. He suggested the proposal be defeated in order to send a message to the central administration. To pass this proposal would be taking the path of least resistance.

Professor William Peterfi offered a motion to put a one-year time limit on the proposal. The motion died for lack of a second.

Professor Klinger wondered if the Bulletin deadline is close. He offered a motion which was seconded to refer the proposal back to the Curriculum Committee. His reason was to give the committee more time for a full consideration.

Dean Bopp found it difficult to understand what could be done. Nothing emerged, he felt, in the Campus Assembly discussion which had not been brought up in the committee. The central administration has been petitioned to bolster our weaker areas. There appears to be no real hope for additional resources.

Provost Imholte believed the referral motion would give the committee time to receive further information. There were five voting members absent when the proposal passed 3 to 2 with one abstention. Also, the Campus Assembly discussion could be taken into account.

Professor Klinger wanted the missing element, it might be ugly, brought forth. What would we have to give up? What are the real options and alternatives? Where do we cut to revive it?

Professor Spring commented that the committee does operate on programmatic reasons, but there is the question of feasibility which has to be a factor - a question the committee cannot often answer because of its reduced vision.

Professor Hinds wanted someone to discover what the elimination of French might do to future recruitment? What would the impact be upon the other two programs? Most serious foreign language students have an interest in two languages. He expressed concern about a possible downward spiral.

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Professor Lammers wondered what the elimination of the French major would do to the image of the school.

Professor Som Agarwal said that the committee does not want the proposal back. He moved to table the referral motion. There was no second to his motion.

Professor Fred Farrell did not believe there was enough time to do much.

Professor Spring asserted that the Curriculum Committee can come back with a firm stand.

Professor Dennis Templeman, a member of the Curriculum Committee, thought the committee could try to examine what consequences of the proposal would have regarding Spanish and German.

The motion to refer back to committee passed.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by James Gremmels, Secretary.

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