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### Campus Assembly minutes 04/16/1979

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University of Minnesota, Morris  
Campus Assembly Minutes  
April 16, 1979

W.D. Spring announced the annual visit of the All-University Consultative Committee on May 3. That afternoon there will be an open meeting for faculty and students. He urged those present to bring questions and issues before the group during the session. Mr. Spring suggested a brief presentation from a UMM administrator to the committee would be a way to initiate the discussion.

The Provost announced the dialogue on the Liberal Arts held on campus on April 17 and April 24. Attendance and participation was urged.

The selection of the Academic Dean was announced as Elizabeth Stanton Blake from Wellesley College. She will assume her responsibilities during this August at UMM. The Provost commended the Academic Dean Search Committee for the work they accomplished. Jim Togeas, chair of that committee directed an excellent group in a most positive and efficient process of recommending candidates for selection.

Legislative appropriations for UMM were briefly announced in terms of a progress report. No final decisions for funding in the next biennium have been made, but the climate for University appropriations has improved.

Spring quarter enrollment was given at 1354. It is an anticipated decline from fall quarter enrollment, but less than previous years. The situation for next fall enrollment looks positive, running 28 to 33 per cent over total enrollees from last fall.

The form and function of the West Central Educational Development Association was described by the Provost. It was formed in the mid 1950's as a lobbying group to work toward naming Morris as a site of a coordinate campus of the University. The last 10 to 12 years it has continued as a less active organization raising either funds for recruitment dinners or sponsoring the Provost's appearances at political dinners. The group has no constitution or rotation of officers. Their meetings have been open.

The minutes of the January 29 and February 12, 1979, Assemblies were approved.

Committee membership changes were offered for information.

The item concerning early grades for graduating seniors was placed before the Assembly for action. Arguments against the action were voiced with an amendment made that the proposal become effective next year (1979-80) because some seniors have already made plans for the last two weeks of spring quarter. Discussion of the amendment followed: Numbers of seniors affected by the proposal was raised over and against the total student enrollment that is affected. Seniors so affected could handle the situation on an individual basis with their instructors. Vote on the amendment was by show of hands. The hands as tallied indicated that the amendment passed

31 to 28. The motion as amended passed by voice vote. Eric Klinger requested that his nay vote be recorded before it was lost in the voice vote of the Assembly called by the Provost before the Provost noticed that Professor Klinger sought recognition to speak against the motion as amended. So be it.

Fred Farrell, Chairperson of the Functions and Awards Committee presented the motion to reinstate the Dean's List recognition. Records are sufficient with the new grading system to implement the proposal. Students practice teaching for an entire quarter seem not to be accommodated by the procedure. The MCSA reaction to the proposal was to suggest an amendment by making a Provost's list at a 3.5 GPA and Dean's List at a 3.0 GPA. The Acting Academic Dean Ahern took exception to the implied hierarchy in the titles as related to the GPA figures. It was also noted that such a proposal would create more office work for Records but would be negligible in terms of GPA tabulations, and perhaps more difficult in terms of determining all courses completed in which the student had enrolled. Arguments were voiced against the lower GPA award as lowering the significance of such an award. Too many might attain the award as to make it meaningless. Standards for the grades themselves (A - B-C - NR) were also briefly discussed. The voice vote on the amendment seemed to overwhelmingly pass it into oblivion, i.e., it failed.

Discussion on the motion itself continued. To overcome difficulty on determining courses completed each quarter, it was suggested that a credit load per quarter be designated. It was argued that the proposed system would work to the same purpose of establishing standards. Use of Criterion 4 concerned Assistant Provost Granger. He moved to eliminate that criterion and replace it with a 12-credit minimum per quarter of completed work in Criterion 1. It was noted that the amendment raised problems in terms of calculating a GPA for those courses completed and those possibly yet to be completed during and after any given quarter. Some simplicity and efficiency in the amendment was noted. A voice vote was undeterminent. A show of hands defeated the amendment 31 to 17.

Discussion returned to the original proposal. It was argued (against the award) that a GPA criterion for distinction seems to offer a false motivation for learning. Bert Ahern offered to amend Criterion 4 to add to line #2: Successfully complete by the close of the quarter, all courses for which he or she has registered by the end of the second week of classes.... The motion was accepted as a friendly amendment. The issue of possible publicity purposes to which a Dean's List could be put was pursued. The value of the award was again questioned as an authentic academic incentive to learning.

The vote taken by show of hands passed the motion 31-17.

Submitted by:

Fred W. Peterson  
Executive Secretary