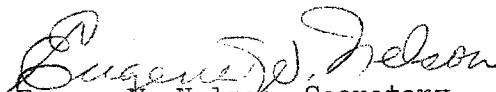


DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE FACULTY COUNCIL

REVISED REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LIBERAL
EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Mr. Philip Graham, Chairman of the Special Committee on Liberal Education Requirements, has filed with the Secretary of the Faculty Council the revised report of the committee published below. This proposal is classified as major legislation.

Notice is hereby given that this legislation will be presented to the Faculty Council for consideration at its meeting on February 21, 1955.


Eugene W. Nelson, Secretary
The Faculty Council

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEEThe Basic Principle

On January 8, 1954, President Wilson, in accordance with action by the Faculty Council, appointed a Special Committee on Liberal Education Requirements.

The duties of this Committee were defined as follows: "In view of the fact that several faculties are independently proposing changes in the curriculum now required of all students, and in view of the fact that the prospective changes are closely related to the broad educational objectives of the University and to the long-range planning of departments offering the courses required under this curriculum, the Faculty Council authorizes the creation of a representative committee...to study the existing liberal education requirements of the University's curricula and to make such recommendations as to objectives, courses of study, and arrangements for administration of these requirements as seem desirable."

This Committee was requested to consider first the "question of principle as to whether the General Faculty should set up specific course requirements for all degrees."

Therefore the Committee makes the following statement concerning this fundamental principle of educational policy at the University of Texas and requests that it be approved by the Faculty Council:

That the General Faculty, since it is made responsible by the Rules of our Board of Regents for the degrees granted in the name of the University of Texas, should exercise its responsibility in this respect to the extent of insuring that all its undergraduate degrees contain a specified minimum of liberal education; that each degree-granting unit should take the initiative in setting its other degree requirements; that the approval by the General Faculty of a statement of minimum requirements in liberal education will set a level of liberal education below which any degree granted by the University of Texas may not fall.

The Recommendations

In explanation of the recommendations that follow, the Committee wishes to call attention to certain important considerations that guided it in many of its decisions. (1) The Committee agreed that every grantee of a degree from the University should have had some acquaintance with certain areas of knowledge (rather than with certain subjects), representing a minimum of liberal education. Our report concerns itself, therefore, only with those basic educational skills and basic fields of knowledge that should be the common possession of all holders of a degree from the University of Texas. (2) Since the recommended requirements are designed to fit all undergraduate degrees of the University, they necessarily must adhere to a strict minimum of liberal education. (3) The Committee seeks to relate the student's High School experience to his University work to the end that when the well prepared student comes to the University, instead of repeating what he has already learned, he may broaden his knowledge into new fields. (4) The Committee agreed to work within existing teaching patterns and departmental organizations. It believes that if, during the subsequent development of liberal education on this Campus, any composite or inter-departmental course should

seem advisable, such a course should be fully planned both as to content and as to teaching responsibility before it is presented for approval by the proper authorities.

The Special Committee on Liberal Education Requirements recommends:

I. That the requirements for each Bachelor's Degree offered by the University of Texas (except the Bachelor of Laws Degree based on a Bachelor's Degree from another institution) include the subjects and hours specified in Sections 1-4 below:

1. Area of Basic Courses.

- A. Six hours in English composition. (Subject to practices set up by the Department of English for the absolving of this requirement.)
- B. Three hours in one of the following subjects, provided that a student presenting three or more High School units in mathematics (except arithmetic or general mathematics) will be absolved from this requirement:
 - (1) Accounting.
 - (2) Logic.
 - (3) Mathematics.
 - (4) Statistics.
- C. Six hours in a foreign language (ancient or modern), provided that a student presenting two or more High School units in a foreign language will be absolved from this requirement. (Sec. 1C will become effective Sept. 1, 1959).

2. Area of Social Sciences.

- A. Six hours in American government.
- B. Six hours in American history, provided that three hours of this requirement may be absolved by examination administered by the Department of History. Students who have had a year of American history in the last two years of high school are encouraged to apply for this examination upon entrance to the University or during the freshman year.
- C. Three hours in any one of these subjects: anthropology (except physical anthropology), classical civilization (except literature in translation), economics, geography (except physical geography), philosophy (except logic and aesthetics), psychology (except experimental psychology), sociology.

3. Area of Natural Sciences. Nine hours, representing at least two subjects listed below and distributed as follows: Six hours from Group A and three additional hours from either Group A or Group B. Three hours of this requirement may be absolved by examination administered by the Department concerned, the remaining six hours to be in a subject or subjects other than that of the absolving examination. Students who have had as much as two units of High School science (other than agriculture, general science, and home economics) are encouraged to apply for the appropriate examination upon admission to the University.

Group A

Bacteriology
Botany
Chemistry
Geology
Physics
Zoology

Group B

Anthropology (physical)
Astronomy
Geography (physical)
Psychology (experimental)

4. Area of Arts and Literature. Nine hours, distributed as follows: three hours from A (below), three hours from B, and three additional hours from A or B or C. This requirement may be absolved, in whole or in part, by examination administered by the Department concerned (See II below).

- A. Aesthetics, Architecture, Art, Drama, Music.
- B. Literature, in English or in another language.
- C. Composition. Creative Writing, Linguistics, Speech, Technical Writing. (Courses in C are above freshman level).

II. That a student may, with the consent of the Department concerned, satisfy the course requirements stated above by satisfactory performance on examination. These examinations are of two types, advanced standing examinations and special examinations:

1. A student may petition a department for an advanced standing examination upon a particular course. In general, an advanced standing examination in a particular course will cover the same material as the regularly scheduled final examinations ordinarily given in that course. (a) A student who passes an advanced standing examination with a grade of at least B will receive credit for the course (present practice). (b) A student who passes an advanced standing examination with a grade of C will receive no hour-credit for the course, but will be absolved from the corresponding course requirement.
2. Departments may administer special placement or achievement tests in basic subjects in order to absolve well prepared students from elementary course requirements. A student whose performance on such a test is satisfactory will receive no hour-credit for the course, but will be absolved from the corresponding course requirement.

III. That the name of the Standing Committee on Course (All-University) be changed to the Standing Committee on Courses and Curricula, and that in addition to its present duties it assume also the function of studying and making recommendations concerning the various undergraduate curricula and degree requirements of the University, with special reference to liberal education requirements; that, though it is contemplated that most degrees can be brought into conformity with these requirements at once, in exceptional cases where immediate conformity is impracticable, this Committee have power to suspend operation of any of these requirements for a period not to exceed two years from the effective date of this legislation.

Not Signing:
P. M. Ferguson

Signing:

F. M. Bullard
G. W. Hoffman
D. L. Miller
Frederic Meyers
Paul A. Pisk
C. Aubrey Smith
J. G. Umstatted (with some reservations)

O. D. Weeks
Robert H. Williams
C. O. Wilson
M. K. Woodward
Philip Graham, Chairman

Filed with the Secretary of the Faculty Council by Mr. Philip Graham, Chairman of the Special Committee on Liberal Education Requirements, February 14, 1955.

Distributed among the members of the Faculty Council by the University Stenographic Bureau, February 15, 1955.

A.W.C., Manager