



Tiptoeing . . . Sheldon sculpture watches as the Arts and Sciences faculty deliberates on group requirements.

A & S faculty postpones action

by Michael (O.J.) Nelson

The faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences will meet next Thursday to continue discussing possible changes in the college's group requirements. The faculty discussed the changes for almost two hours Thursday afternoon before recessing.

If passed, the changes will be the first major revision of the college's degree requirements since the early 1950's.

The proposal before the faculty contains both a majority and minority report. The group could accept one of the two verbatim, in amended form, or reject them both.

The report was prepared by the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee. Both the minority and majority report would change the foreign language requirement. Currently, students must take four semesters of a foreign language. If the student has studied a language in high school, he may take as little as one semester of the language at the University.

Enacting the majority report would eliminate the language requirement completely and instead require additional hours of humanities. The minority proposal would offer the student a three-way alternative.

He may "test out" of a language by passing a proficiency test; complete a nine hour block of courses in foreign language or culture plus a course in applied theoretical linguistics; or complete the fourth semester of a foreign language.

Both proposals call for elimination of the freshman English requirement.

Eric Davies, assistant professor of botany, and spokesman for the Curriculum Committee, said the committee believes a student should "gain depth and breadth" while at the University. However, he added, the committee also believed a student cannot achieve that depth or breadth by taking only the 125 hours needed to graduate.

He said the committee tried "to define the areas of human endeavor."

According to Davies, the committee only found three such areas: the humanities, social sciences, and mathematics and the natural sciences. He said the committee did not recognize foreign language as a special area and therefore did not distinguish it from the others in the majority report.

Davies said a minority of the committee believed languages and culture to be a separate area and included them as such.

Said Davies: "The areas are arbitrary. You can see them either of the two ways. It all depends if you are a 'lumper' or a 'splitter.'"

Michael Meyer, professor of history, moved to amend the majority report to include a requirement that students must either pass the fourth semester of a foreign language or an equivalent examination.

Meyer said that by giving the students a greater latitude of choice the faculty would "abdicate (its) responsibility for formulating what we think is a liberal education."

He said the attempt to eliminate the requirement is "an example of Nebraska's ethnocentricism."

"The student can learn of another culture by other ways than studying the language," said Richard Boohar, associate professor of zoology. "A student can get a feeling for a country through studying its literature in translation or its art or music."

Phillip Crowl, professor of history, said he could not accept the study of a foreign culture as a substitute for study of a language. He said he did not study a foreign language in college and said he wished he had.

Gail Butt, professor of art, said he favored retaining the requirement. He warned the body that the ramifications of dropping foreign languages will "shock" the faculty. He said the faculty should keep the requirements in order to help prepare students for graduate school.

A student member of the Arts and Sciences Advisory Board, Tom Wiest, said the faculty should consider "what is best for the students." He said students come to college with different goals and many do not go on to post-graduate studies.

"You should consider alternatives that will fit all the students," he said.

"What you are talking of doing is abandoning traditional scholarly principles in the name of freedom," said Ivan Volgyes, associate professor of political science, speaking against the proposal. "This is not freedom, ladies and gentlemen, this is license."

Several faculty members complained that they did not have enough time to study the proposal. The body then decided to recess the meeting until next week.

Following the meeting, Howard Norland, professor of English and co-author of the majority report said students should talk to their instructors about the prospective changes in the requirements.

CSL discusses student fees

ASUN hasn't been as fiscally accountable to the University community as have other University student organizations, according to a report presented Thursday to the Council on Student Life (CSL) by its ad hoc committee on student fees.

The report, prepared by students, faculty and administrators, outlines a fiscal procedure for ASUN and recommends that its budget review committee be expanded to include faculty and students in addition to the current administration members.

ASUN President Bruce Beecher said he isn't pleased with the report and objects to faculty determining how ASUN student fees are spent. The report was justified in saying ASUN hasn't been accountable, but proposals to correct that will be presented to CSL, he said.

The student fee committee chaired by Peter G. Wirtz, coordinator for Student Activities, was established last October to investigate the student fee issue. CSL received the report but took no action Thursday.

CSL chairman Franklin Eldridge, associate dean of the College of Agriculture, said Chancellor James Zumberge will wait

for the CSL report before acting on his proposal to form a student fee committee.

The committee recommended that tuition payment and fees should be combined in a single amount and referred to as tuition. University publications, such as the Campus Handbook, should then list all the types of services provided from the single tuition payment.

These would include instructional programs, health center, ASUN, Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union and other programs currently financed by student fees.

One person on the committee, student CSL member Dave Rasmussen objected to the recommendation. He said students want to know how their money is spent. By not listing specific amounts allocated for each program the University is "putting students more in the dark."

Appeal routes for students dissatisfied with the use of tuition should be published in University publications, the report said, and a procedure for adding new programs to those receiving allocations from tuition should be established.

Before any new facilities are built on campus which would increase the current \$14.50 assessed students for bonded indebtedness, students should be involved in the decision, continued the report.

The committee said the Nebraska Union should be commended for its "accountability system" and its budget

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