

4/29/68

Swarthmore College
Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

Instruction Committee

The Instruction Committee held its regular meeting on Monday, April 29, 1968 in Room 233, Parrish Hall. Susan Cobbs chaired the meeting in the absence of Courtney Smith.

1. The minutes of the Faculty meeting held on April 19 were read by members of the committee and approved with suggestions for changes and corrections.

2. The minutes of the meeting of the Instruction Committee held on April 22 were read and approved subject to corrections in items 4 and 6.

3. The following persons were suggested for the committee to supervise the election of the Council on Educational Policy: David Cowden, Roland Pennock, Peter Thompson, Stuart Patterson, and Ray Hopkins, with David Cowden to serve as chairman. These suggestions were approved. Susan Cobbs will work with David Cowden in preparing a statement to be sent to the faculty on election procedure.

4. Agenda for the Faculty meeting of May 3. It was agreed that the report of the Committee on Faculty and Staff Benefits should be dealt with first and that the Faculty should then complete the unfinished part of the agenda prepared for the April 26 meeting. Presumably the recommendations concerning modern languages and the laboratory sciences in Chapter 6 should come next, but the committee was informed that the Commission on Educational Policy would prefer that this part of the agenda be left flexible since they are working with members of the Department of Modern Languages on possible substitutes for the original C.E.P. recommendations in this area. The Instruction Committee approved these suggestions.

The question was asked whether it would be possible to begin with the recommendations on Engineering on May 10, but Sam Carpenter indicated that the Engineering staff was working on possible substitutes for these recommendations and probably would not have them ready in time for consideration on May 10. In this event the Faculty might deal with the recommendations in the latter part of Chapter 6 beginning with #86 and possibly ~~to~~ ^{with} some of those in Chapter 7. These questions were left undecided.

5. The committee then turned its attention to a series of suggestions which have been made looking toward the possibility of a program of "Black Studies." It is understood that Courtney Smith has discussed these possibilities with a group of black students and has asked for the views of the Instruction Committee. Members of the committee expressed interest in proposals V (a lecture series) and VI (courses in certain fields, such as African art or literature). It was pointed out that we already have certain courses in Africa, particularly in History, ~~and in~~ Sociology and Anthropology, and in Political Science. It was agreed that these and other departments be asked to explore the possibilities further.

6. A memorandum has been received from Leon Bramson expressing the hope of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology that students who write

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theses in this field "outside" of their six-paper Honors programs, might receive grades other than "pass" or "fail". It was pointed out that the department can make any form of evaluation it may wish but that only "pass" or "fail" can be recorded on the student's transcript, in accordance with the recent action of the Faculty. It was agreed that it would not be wise to ask the Faculty to change the regulation this spring but that ~~there~~ a suggestion might be made that the department ~~would~~ take up the matter with the Council on Educational Policy next fall.

1. The minutes of the Faculty meeting held on April 19 were read by members.
7. The committee then adjourned about 6:15 p.m. for changes and corrections.

2. The minutes of the meeting of the Instruction Committee held on April 22 were read and approved subject to correction.

John M. Moore
Secretary

3. The following persons were suggested for the committee to supervise the election of the Council on Educational Policy: David Cowden, Roland Pennock, Peter Thompson, Stuart Patterson, and Ray Hopkins, with David Cowden to serve as chairman. These suggestions were approved. Susan Cobbs will work with David Cowden in preparing a statement to be sent to the faculty on election procedures.

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