

RG 6-2/2/26327

MAY 10 1972

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS, held April 6, 1972

1. The Faculty of Arts met in Room B-20, Nicholson Hall, on Thursday, April 6, 1972, with Dr. J. T. Sears, chairman, and V. J. MacLellan, secretary. There were approximately 40 members present. Fr. S. Mifflin opened the meeting with prayer.

2. The minutes of the previous meeting (February 3, 1972) were adopted as circulated.

3. Item: Business arising from minutes: Ad hoc Committee on Research.

Dr. Sears read a letter from Dr. J. MacPherson, a member of that committee, indicating that further information was being gathered. There was no discussion on the matter.

4. Item: Report of Library Committee.

Father Brewer, Chief Librarian, informed the meeting that suggestions on the subject of closer cooperation between the libraries on the Sydney and Antigonish campuses was available in the Angus L. Macdonald Library. The substance of the Librarian's response to a question from Dr. Spekkens is as follows: If the two libraries were to become associated, savings could be realized especially in the buying of newspapers, periodicals, and microfilms; centralized cataloguing could be done at Sydney; books could be transported by Acadia Coach Lines for a nominal fee.

5. Item: Final examinations.

The Chairman referred to the Academic Vice-President's letter of February 28, dealing with the options open to professors. Take-home examinations should not be given out before 9 a.m. on April 20. The professors were asked to indicate on the grade sheets the style of exams given. Dr. Sears concluded by saying that he expects that a review of all options open would be made during the summer with a view of possible use of the options during the whole year.

In response to a question on supplementary exams, the Chairman replied that there is no change in the form of such exams; they were to be the traditional, supervised type.

6. Item: Pre-course information.

The Chairman asked if many students had taken advantage of the opportunity of the "sampler period." The answers given by some members indicated that very few had done so. Some of the comments expressed are as follows: Perhaps more time could be given for such a venture next year; there would be too much "jockeying" between courses if the "sampler period" were to be extended; there is no need for such a period because the students, before they register, get all the information they need from other students; professors should provide



a description of their courses, the title of texts, author of texts, and other helpful information at the time of registration.

7. Item: Proposals from Committee on Studies re changes in the B. A. degree requirements.

The proposals approved by the Committee on Studies, Faculty of Arts, March 12, 1972, were circulated. The discussion centered on the residency requirement, senior seminar, possible reduction in staff if proposals were to be put into effect, possible reduction in course enrolment, the date for putting proposals into effect when and if the proposals are finally accepted, the senior essay requirement, and the like. The Chairman answered questions on the proposals.

In order to get the general feeling of the meeting on the proposals, Dr. Y. Brunelle moved and Dr. G. Brooks seconded that the proposals for changes in the requirements for the B. A. degree, approved by the Committee on Studies, Faculty of Arts, March, 1972, be accepted by the Faculty of Arts. Motion carried with but one negative vote.

8. Item: Report from Committee on Studies re Program of Directed Study.

The written report was circulated. In answer to a question on the possibility of a reduction in the present teaching load because of such a program, Dr. Sears said that for the present he could not see the need for a reduction. However, the possibility always existed if the professor were to become too busy. Such a program, of course, should be so implemented that it would not interfere with a professor's other duties. When questioned on the meaning of the term "progress report" in the Report, Dr. Sears admitted that perhaps the term needed clarification. A more specific statement would be made on the matter when the program is put into effect, he said.

The substance of the remainder of the discussion on the matter is as follows: Such a program is not used extensively at other universities at the moment; discretion and good judgment should be used in giving preference to those applying for the program; the program is worthwhile even if only a few take advantage of it; if a student were to challenge a professor's standards, the onus would be on the student to show the professor that a particular project was worthwhile.

It was then moved by Dr. M. Schwartz and seconded by Dr. H. Spekkens that the meeting accept the proposals made in the Report from the Committee on Studies on the Program of Directed Study. The motion was passed unanimously.

9. Item: Grading methods.

The Chairman said that the Joint Committee on Studies was not in favor of a change in the numeric grading system, at least for the present. He also indicated that the Committee felt that, since a transcript is an official report of a student's academic activities, the transcript should contain a record of the failures as well as the passes. He concluded by adding that the whole question of the grading method will be reviewed annually, or more often if the need arises.

10. Item: New course approvals.

The Chairman reported that a number of new courses have been approved for next year or the following year, depending on the availability of staff. Two non-laboratory science courses (biology and physics) for arts students will be offered next year. In response to a question regarding extra resources for the Library to meet the needs of new courses, he said department chairmen had been requested to take such needs into consideration in proposing the course(s) and in their budget.

11. Item: Pre-registration.

The Chairman said that this topic was discussed at some length by the Joint Committee on Studies. The Committee had reviewed the problems, the cost, and the benefits of such a program. The conclusion reached was that pre-registration would be difficult in practice. However, a modest beginning would be made in the fall involving the juniors and seniors majors and honors.

12. Item: Senior year for mature students at Xavier.

The Chairman said that the Committee on Studies, Faculty of Arts, did not recommend the senior year at Xavier. A motion was passed by the Senate, however, permitting the senior year for mature students at Xavier for the academic year 1972-73 only; along with the permission was a recommendation that a review of the whole question be made at a later date.

The substance of the comments on this item is as follows: More information on the whole Sydney question should be provided for the Antigonish faculty members; is it not rather strange that the Senate should pass a recommendation on the matter after the Committee on Studies, Faculty of Arts, declined to do so? The faculty at Antigonish would have some reservations on passing approval on Xavier students whom they did not know.

13. Item: Physical Education requirement.

Dr. Sears reported that the Joint Committee on Studies recommended that the present physical education requirement for all students be dropped and replaced by a series of clinics in physical training.

14. Item: Supplementaries.

The Chairman said that the present practice with regard to supplementary examinations is that a student's transcript merely shows the supplementary's grade as a "pass" or a "failure." The Joint Committee on Studies proposed that the actual grade received should be recorded. A further proposal was that at the time supplementaries are being written, a student who passed a course but who wishes to try to improve his grade should be permitted to write an upgrading exam. The grade he receives on such an exam would then be recorded next to his original grade but would not affect his average. Dr. Sears said that the question of upgrading arose because some students, wishing to enter professional schools or graduate schools, have had difficulties in getting accepted because of poor grades in required courses in the first year of college.

The general feeling of the faculty concerning upgrade examinations was indicated by a show of hands: four in favor, twelve against.

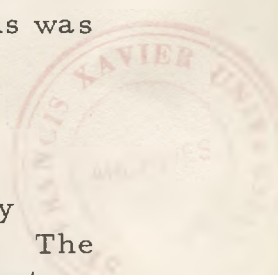
15. Item: New business.

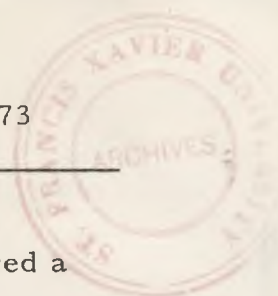
Mr. J. Mitchell asked for information on the policy of the Library regarding lending books during the summer to returning students. The Librarian said that no books are on loan -- to professors or students -- during the stocktaking period and that the general policy is to lend books to students only while they are students. Mr. Mitchell expressed some concern at such a policy. Fr. Brewer said that if Mr. Mitchell -- or any other professor -- wanted a student to have access to books during the summer, he, Fr. Brewer, would be willing to consider each case on its own merits. Dr. Sears suggested that the matter was one that professors might well bring to the attention of the Library Committee.

Dr. H. Spekkens also expressed concern over the Library's policy of not allowing books to be taken out during the stocktaking period; such a policy was difficult for some professors. He also complained that the loan period for professors was too short. Dr. Sears again suggested that the Library Committee could be made aware of complaints in the matter.

16. Item: Adjournment. Moved by R. Williams; seconded by H. McGee.

April 28, 1972


V. J. MacLellan
V. J. MacLellan
Secretary



PROGRAM OF DIRECTED STUDY, FACULTY OF ARTS 1972-73

For the academic year 1972-73 any student who has achieved a grade average of 70 or higher in the 1971-72 academic year in the Faculty of Arts shall be eligible to choose to take the equivalent of one of his normal courses in "directed study." The program of directed study must be under the supervision of a full time teaching member of the Faculty of Arts in a department in which the student has already completed two courses with grades of at least 70.

Candidates shall apply for the program by 1 July, 1972, through the chairman of the department in which they wish to take the directed study program. The application should indicate the professor and one alternate whom the student wants as supervisor; and should provide (a) a statement of the applicant's objective in the study program; (b) a description of the subject within the discipline which the applicant wishes to study, and (c) a proposal concerning the work the student intends to do on the subject. The student will be advised by 15 August, 1972 of the willingness of the professor (or the alternate) to accept the responsibility and the project. Students wishing to withdraw from such a program may do so up to 25 September, 1972. The professor accepting the responsibility will be required to provide the Dean's office with a progress report on each student's work by 23 December, and a final numeric grade at the scheduled spring date.

R 66-212/26,332

Face of Arts

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY
ANTIGONISH, NOVA SCOTIA

OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF ARTS
TEL: (902) 867-2165

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 18, 1972

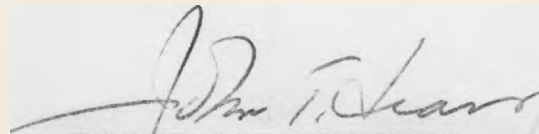
TO: Members of the Joint Committee on Studies

FROM: John T. Sears, Dean of Arts and of Science

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL REGARDING UPGRADE EXAMINATIONS

I brought the above matter up for discussion at the Faculty of Arts meeting held on 6 April. To put it mildly, there was less than great enthusiasm for the upgrade proposal with that group, and, consequently, I feel that before bringing the proposal to Senate it should be aired at a meeting of the Faculty of Science. I bring this to your attention lest you wonder why it does not appear on the agenda for the coming Senate meeting.

I should add that there appeared to be general approval of the proposal that the grade earned in a supplementary examination be recorded on the student's academic transcript.



John T. Sears





FIVER PROGRAM IN MUSIC

Candidates for the Bachelor of Arts, general course may choose to satisfy requirement 1(a) or 2 (a) provided that the student so electing has had previous training in Music.

Students who are eligible for the completion of the degree requirements with five courses in Music must take Music 100 or Music 110, and two of the following: Music 195, 295, 395, and 495. The remaining credits must be chosen from the following: Music 200, 215, 216, 217, 218, 300, 310, and 315.

May 1, 1972

RG 6-2/2/26,334

Changes in Requirements, B. A. degree, approved by Committee on Studies Faculty of Arts, March, 1972, and by Faculty of Arts, April 6, 1972.

- 1) General degree: No change recommended.
- 2) In the major and honors program the normal course load would be 5 in each year. However, on the recommendation of the chairman of the student's major or honors department, the Dean could approve a sixth course in any year.
3. Major degree:
 - a) Reduce course requirements for four year degree

from	$6 + 5 + 2 + 2 + 2 + 5(1)$	= 22
to	$6 + 4 + 2 + 2 + 2 + 4(1)$	= 20
 - b) Reduce course requirements for the three year degree

from	$6 + 4 + 2 + 2 + 2(1)$	= 16
to	$6 + 4 + 2 + 3(1)$	= 15

When the student has a Grade XII course in the major subject acceptable to the major department, the course requirements would be

	$5 + 4 + 2 + 2 + 2(1)$	= 15
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 - c) Increase required grade average to 65 for junior and senior years; grade average in sophomore year required for entry remains 60.
 - d) Grades in major and related subject must be 60 through sophomore year; for junior and senior year, grade average in major and related subject must be 65.
 - e. A senior essay will be required of all candidates for major degree. The essay may be, at the discretion of the department,
 1. Part of a designated course
 2. An added assignment, or
 3. (rarely) the equivalent of a course.
 - f) A senior seminar will be required of all candidates for a major degree, of which the senior essay may be a component.
4. Honors degree:
 - a) Require Grade XII or exceptional performance in Grade XI for admission.
 - b) Reduce course requirements

from	$10 + 2 + 2 + 8$	= 22
to	$10 + 2 + 2 + 6$	= 20
 - c) Terminate "Joint Honors" as such, but permit honors in a subject to include up to 4 courses of not more than two other departments, with these latter courses subject to approval of the department of honors.
 - d) Grades in honors subject unchanged at 70, average unchanged for sophomore and subsequent years at 70, but permit entry at the end of freshman year on 65 average.

