

MINUTES OF INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING, THURS. MAY 12, 1977

Present: I. Berger, Chairman
M. Chang, R. Cordray, P. Daniels, A. Lessard, D. Sacher,
H. Shenkman, M. Shopkow, L. V. Toralballa, H. Tyson,
S. Ukeles and M. Wise.

Dr. Berger opened the meeting at 12:30 p.m. by writing the following agenda on the blackboard.

1. Announcements
2. Follow-up on the "Downtown" Project
3. Guest Speakers
 - a) Prof. Toralballa - Math Dept. Proposal
 - b) Prof. Tyson and Prof. Shopkow - On Adding Pluses to Letter Grades

This meeting was the last meeting of the semester, announced Dr. Berger, because examination week was coming up in less than two weeks from now. "Today, we have a varied program," the Chairman continued, although he expressed that he had hoped to know whether money had been found for the Journal of Instruction at this time.

"The announcement of our President is imminent," Dr. Berger reported. The Instruction Committee will try to invite the President to our Committee meeting when he has arrived, it was agreed.

Next semester, committee meetings will probably be scheduled at the same time, the Chairman said. However, he would try to space the meetings so as to avoid conflict with Departmental meetings.

Following up on the "Downtown" Studies Project, two more courses should be added to the list of courses described by Prof. Pomerantz at the last meeting. They are:

Urban Sociology
& Field Work in Sociology

At 1 p.m. Prof. Toralballa spoke on a Math Dept. Proposal. He said that the Math Dept. would like the Instruction Committee to consider drawing up a "white paper" on

- a) the increase in class size (to 35 students)
- & b) the increase in teaching load (to 15 hours)

and their effects on the physical and research life of the teaching faculty. The scheduling of the faculty members to teach from morning

till night was especially deleterious to morale and physical well-being. Unrestricted use of human energy will affect productivity and quality of instruction, it was concluded.

Next, Prof. Shopkow and Prof. Tyson spoke on a proposed change in the grading system.

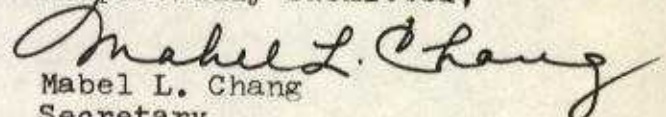
Three grading systems were described as follows. (i) One system has pluses and minuses in all the letter grades of A, B, C, and D (except that there is no D-) and a grade of F, with values ranging from 0 for F to 13 for A+. (ii) The second system has pluses and minuses for A, B, C and D (except that there is no A+). The values here range from 4 for A to 0 for D- or F. (iii) The third system has pluses for grades of B, C and D but no minuses. The maximum grade is A (there is no A+). The lowest grade is F. The index weights are as follows.

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Test Score</u>	<u>Index Value</u>
A	----- 90 and up	----- 4
B+	----- 85 to 89	----- 3.5
B	----- 80 to 84	----- 3
C+	----- 75 to 79	----- 2.5
C	----- 70 to 74	----- 2
D+	----- 65 to 69	----- 1.5
D	----- 60 to 64	----- 1
F	----- under 60	----- 0

Prof. Tyson endorsed the third and last-described method "because it will help our students increase their indices on the basis of actual performance," said Professors Tyson and Shopkow.

A question-and-answer period followed, until 2 p.m. when the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Mabel L. Chang
Secretary