

To: Senate

SM 118/66

Paper 4A

AUG 1, 1966

Subject: Registration in General Education Courses

From: Registrar

Gen Ed

The Calendar states that students must take at least two General Education courses sometime in the first four semesters, preferably the first two. This means :

1. He must formally register in the course so we can tell if he should be given a grade in it.
2. We must have a grade (P or F) so we can tell if he should be credited with it on the transcript. There are a number of problems with this approach.
 1. It is impossible to have a clean registration. Advisors are very casual about the requirements, students don't know about it and if they do they don't treat it very seriously. The Physical Development Centre likes to wait to register for their courses until all the other registration is completed, which is usually a matter of a week. The Professional Development Program sends students to General Education Courses after a week or two when the Education Faculty have had a chance to interview and sort out the deficiencies in the background of the student. Once registered on paper the students are very casual about changing from course to course - it is not for credit after all.
 2. With some exceptions, the instructors are loath to place any restrictions on entrance and exit to the course, attendance is not taken, there are no ways of finding out who is attending and who is not. This desirable informality does mean that a student could register, never attend, and yet have recorded on his transcript that he has fulfilled the calendar regulation.

RECOMMENDATION

Register students only for those courses where some control of tutorials is necessary, e.g., Reading 001 and English 001. Other courses would be signed up for in the Registrar's Office after about the third week of lectures, a list of those signed up for the course would be kept in the Registrar's Office for reference, a note would be put in the student's file stating he had signed for the course. Before graduation a check would be made to see that he had signed for two of the courses. No grade would be required and no record of the general education courses would appear on the transcript.

The proposal seems to keep the intent of the General Education courses which is to provide an opportunity to exert some mild pressure on students to broaden their outlook, without involving the faculty in a lot of paperwork and without forcing the Registrar to certify on the transcript that the student had taken the course when in fact there is no proof of this except an informal list.

SM 1/8/66

Page No. 2.

Gen Ed

It is also recommended that students entering from Grade XII, or with similar advance credit, be told they are exempt from the requirement of two General Education courses.

This recommendation was approved by the Joint Faculty Meeting
of July 25, 1966