

February 9, 2001  
Undergraduate Affairs Committee

Members Present: Evans, Laugesen, Miles, Palmore, Tolman, Weichsel

Members Absent: Baym, Bennett, Gorvett, Murphy, Sowers

The Committee approved a draft of a letter, composed by Rick Laugesen with input from Julian Palmore, Rick Gorvett, and others, from UAC to the faculty concerning grades in undergraduate mathematics courses. The letter solicits the opinion of the faculty on the level and trend of grades in undergraduate mathematics courses, as well as on the variation in grades between sections of the same course. The letter will be sent early next week.

Evans reported that it would be extremely complicated to implement the plan of Carol Castellon to discontinue Math 117 and replace it with a new course, Math 204. Such a change would involve rewriting an agreement with the College of Education, going through a possibly lengthy process to obtain general education credit for Math 204, and other issues as well. The path of least resistance is to change the title and syllabus of Math 117 to reflect the changes Castellon has suggested. The department will follow that route.

Weichsel reported that, as of this fall, Math 135 and Math 245 will no longer be offered in C & M format.

Weichsel presented data showing declining enrollment in the lecture section of Math 242. The enrollment was 70 in the most recent semester, essentially the "break even point" at which there is no financial saving from the lecture format. It was agreed that Weichsel will discuss the future of the lecture section of Math 242 with John D'Angelo, who was instrumental in creating this section four years ago. Sentiment was expressed that in order to preserve this section, it would likely be necessary to limit contact hours to three per week instead of the present four. A decision on the future of the lecture section will have to be made soon in order to be incorporated in the Fall 2001 timetable.

Submitted by:  
Joe Miles, Secretary, UAC