

Minutes  
October 12, 2000  
Undergraduate Affairs Committee

Members Present: Baym, Bennett, Evans, Gorvett, Laugesen, Miles,  
Palmore, Sowers, Tolman, Weichsel

Member Absent; Murphy

Evans supplied the Committee with data concerning grades in mathematics courses in two recent years, as well as the fall 1984 distribution of grades by college at the 100, 200, 300, and 400 level. The consensus was that both sets of grades were quite high and that it would be desirable for the Committee to have additional information about grades given in mathematics courses. Discussion ensued about the nature of the information the Committee should request. Issues raised included the desirability of separating the grades given by faculty and teaching assistants, as well as obtaining the grades of individual sections as opposed to aggregate grades for entire courses. There was agreement that it would be useful to have information about grades from ten or fifteen years ago in mathematics to see if there had been a noticeable change over time. It was decided that Evans would circulate to the Committee a proposed request for information in this matter, and that committee members would suggest modifications to his request as they saw fit.

Laugesen proposed a revised description of Math 385. The changes more accurately reflect the content of the course and will likely have the effect of making the course more appealing to students contemplating taking a second course in differential equations. Evans will submit the revision to Ann Mester for approval.

As part of the VIGRE grant, the department has slots for 24 REU's (Research Experience for Undergraduates) for the summer of 2001. At this time Francis, Hildebrand, and Muncaster have each agreed to work with as many as six participants in the program. It was felt that these positions need to be advertised to undergraduates, perhaps in the Daily Illini and in the newsletter to undergraduate math majors. Some concern was expressed about the lack of direct reward to faculty for participation in the program. It was decided that Bennett will seek additional information about similar programs at Rose Hulman and Minnesota, both of which have been successful.

Weichsel submitted to the Committee a recommendation from Carol Castellon that Math 117, a course for future elementary school teachers, be discontinued and that a new course, Math 204, also for elementary teachers, should be created.

Submitted by:  
Joe Miles, Secretary, UAC