

DIGEST OF THE SPECIAL MEETING

March 19, 1970

CONVENED: 4:10 p.m. in Room 108 Memorial Hall.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS: Announcements and adoption of the agenda

BILLS INTRODUCED:

S. 12 (Osborne), amendment to Section IV, Paragraph 11, of the Constitution.

S. 13 (Rees), to provide for a roll call vote where requested.

BILLS REPORTED:

S. 7 (Faculty Committee on Graduate Studies), proposal for non-thesis options in certain Master's degree programs. Approved.

S. 8 (Moszynski), to authorize the existing committees of the Faculty to continue to function until replaced by new committees or dissolved by a vote of the Senate. Passed.

S. 11, recommendation from the Organization and Rules Committee that Fred Canfield replace Dave Robinson on the Publications Committee. Passed.

Committee on Committees

S. 9, nominating Edward H. Kerner chairman. Passed unanimously.

S. 10, nominating eight senators for membership. Elected by ballot were: Jay L. Halio, Dorothy A. Kennedy, and Edmund S. Glenn. Appointed: Mary K. Carl and Franklin P. Kilpatrick.

PROCEDURE:

S. Res. 1 (Kerner), resolution that the Senate exercise the privilege of the faculty to formulate a recommendation to the Trustees regarding the proposed College of Marine Studies. Passed.

ADJOURNED: 5:32 p.m.

March 18, 1970

NOTICE

TO: All Members of the University of Delaware Senate

FROM: Henry B. Tingey, Secretary

There will be a special meeting of the Senate on Thursday, March 19, at 4:10 p.m. in Room 108 Memorial Hall.

The agenda follows.

- I. Adoption of the Agenda
- II. Old Business
 - A. Previous business before the faculty
 - 1. Report of the Committee on Graduate Studies, F. P. Kilpatrick (see attachments)
 - (a) Procedure for considering non-thesis options for Master's Degree programs.
 - (b) Proposed non-thesis options in the following Master's Degree programs: (1) English, (2) French, (3) Home Economics with a major in Child Development, (4) Mathematics, (5) Philosophy and (6) Statistics and Computer Science.
 - B. Organization
 - 1. Moszynski resolution, Part II (Part I was dealt with at the first meeting of the Senate ; see attachment).
 - 2. Election of members to the Committee on Committees
 - (a) Chairman
 - (b) Members of the Committee
 - 3. Recommendation from Mr. Baxter, Organization and Rules Committee, for a replacement on the Publications Committee
- III. New Business
 - A. A resolution from Mr. Kerner calling for postponement of presentation of the proposed College of Marine Studies to the Board of Trustees until the Senate has had opportunity to discuss it and formulate a recommendation, under various Trustee Bylaws (such as VIII D, VIII E) giving the faculty wide privileges to consider and recommend upon diverse matters. (See attachment.)
 - (The officers anticipate that the debate called for in this resolution could take place at the next regular meeting of the Senate on April 6.)
 - B. Other items of new business. (This is intended as a solicitation of items from members of the Senate).

The next regular meeting of the Senate will be on Monday, April 6, and the next regular meeting after that will be on Monday, May 4. There will also be the semi-annual meeting of the general faculty on Monday, April 20.

Attachment II Moszynski Resolution, Part III

It is moved that the existing committees of the Faculty continue to function with their present membership until replaced by new committees or dissolved by a vote of the Senate.

The purpose of this resolution is to minimize transitional problems as the committee structure of the Faculty is reviewed. This resolution goes beyond section IV-14 of the Constitution in that the current committee membership is maintained specifically.

Attachment III Kerner Resolution

BE IT MOVED: That the Faculty Senate exercise the privilege of the faculty, under Trustee Bylaw, to formulate a recommendation to the Trustees regarding the proposed College of Marine Studies.

nc
psb

PROPOSAL FOR GENERAL NON-THESIS OPTION FOR MASTERS PROGRAMS

Non-thesis options for masters degrees have been proposed and approved for a number of departments. The following procedure is established for consideration of future non-thesis option proposals from departments or programs already approved to offer a masters degree with thesis:

- a. Proposal originated by department or program, and recommended to the appropriate academic dean or deans.
- b. If approved, the proposal is recommended to the Committee on Graduate Studies by the academic dean or deans.
- c. The Committee on Graduate Studies will notify the appropriate dean or deans of actions taken on proposals. Consideration beyond that of this committee will normally not be required for such proposals.

3/11/70

PROPOSAL TO MODIFY GRADUATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS IN ENGLISH

May, 1969

In recent years the character and value of the Master's thesis in English have changed as the MA degree has been progressively supplanted by the Ph.D. as the terminal research degree in the field. For students not planning to proceed beyond the MA, an extended critical or historical essay based on independent study retains some of its traditional usefulness, despite the diminishing opportunity for genuine originality in a densely crowded field. For students proceeding on to the Ph.D., however, the thesis may only anticipate and duplicate the disciplines of the dissertation, and thus stand in the total program as a repetitive impediment to early completion of the higher degree. Even for the terminal Master's candidate, additional course work may, in some cases, have greater educational value than the thesis, provided a sufficient number of seminar papers have provided scope and training in documented research.

In order to facilitate progress to the Ph.D. and introduce some flexibility into the MA program, the Department proposes to substitute a thesis option for the thesis requirement now in effect. We propose that in lieu of a thesis the MA candidate be permitted, by advice and consent of the Graduate Committee of the Department, to present six additional course credits, equivalent to credit awarded for the thesis, and a substantial seminar paper, representative of his best work. Students proceeding directly to the Ph.D. will be permitted to apply the additional six credits toward the total credits (24) required beyond the MA, and thus lose no time and effort in their total program. Students stopping at the MA will be advised to take the thesis option as a terminal exercise.

Quality control will be maintained through supervision by the Graduate Committee of (1) the student's election of the course or thesis option, (2) the student's filing of an acceptable sample of his scholarly writing, (3) continuation, with planned improvement, of the Master's General Examination, still the most effective screening device for doctoral aspirants.

March 10, 1969

Memo to: Dean Kilpatrick
College of Graduate Studies

From: Max S. Kirch
Chairman

Subject: Proposal for Non-Thesis Option for the
M.A. in French

Our Graduate Faculty in French would like to recommend that as an alternative for the Master's Thesis, FR 669, 6 credit hours, candidates be permitted to take any six additional credit hours of French Literature courses at the 600 or 800 levels, above the 24 hours of course work now required. Since all of our advanced literature courses are seminars and require the submission of at least one research paper per semester, every student would have written at least six research papers before completing the requirements for the MA degree. This would seem to guarantee sufficient practice in the methods and techniques of research. In addition, every candidate must pass a comprehensive examination in which his ability to integrate the entire field is tested.

This alternative would be designed primarily for high school teachers and others who do not plan to continue on to the Ph.D. degree.

ml

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE
NEWARK, DELAWARE

19711

COLLEGE OF HOME ECONOMICS
100 ALISON HALL
PHONE: 302-738-2302

February 26, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: Home Economics Faculty

FROM: Arlette Rasmussen
Chairman, Graduate Committee

SUBJECT: Presentation of Nonthesis Master's Degree Program
in Child Development. This Program has been Approved
by the Graduate Committee of the College of Home
Economics.

Rationale:

There is an urgent need for personnel with advanced study in the area of Child Development and Family Life to apply their knowledge immediately upon graduation through direct work with young children and families or through teaching paraprofessionals or students at the junior college level. The following nonthesis master's degree program is proposed as a way of preparing such individuals. The traditional thesis requirement with its emphasis upon independent research is replaced by a field experience which the student is expected to plan, execute and evaluate with the help of his graduate committee.

A. Course Prerequisites:

Three credit hours of early child development, six credit hours of social science. This course work must have been taken within the past ten years and have the approval of the admissions committee in Child Development.

B. A total of 30 credit hours of graduate-level courses are required, to be distributed as follows:

1. 12 credit hours of child development and family life courses to include at least one course in child development theory and research and one course in family life.
2. 3 credit hours of research methods.

3 9 credit hours in an area of supporting concentration such as psychology, sociology, education, special education, home management.

4. 6 credit hours in a supervised field experience.

C Each student must pass a comprehensive examination both written and oral. The examination will be prepared by the students' graduate committee and will include questions pertaining both to course content and to the student's field experience.

CD 669 (6) Supervised Field Experience and Study:

Supervised work with children and/or families in a community setting, required as part of the nonthesis master's degree program. Credit may be distributed over more than one semester.

A NON-THESIS OPTION FOR THE
MASTER'S DEGREE IN MATHEMATICS

"The option permits the replacement of the 6 hours of thesis by 6 hours of 800-level course work with the retention of the special department requirement of not more than 6 hours at the 600 level allowed toward the master's degree. In addition, those electing not to do the thesis must include in the required 30 hours 12 hours in some one of the five areas of Algebra, Real and Functional Analysis, Complex Analysis, Topology, or Applied Mathematics, called the major area. The non-thesis program recognizes breadth as well as depth and requires that 3 of the 5 areas be covered, at least 6 hours in each of the selected 3 areas. Accordingly, every student selecting the non-thesis option will be required to pass a departmental integrated comprehensive final examination reflecting competence in the three areas with some measure of emphasis in the major area."

* * * *

This non-thesis option strengthens both the master's and Ph.D. programs. With such an option a student with Ph.D. intentions gains several distinct advantages. By bypassing the necessity of preparing a master's thesis he can pursue his course work in greater depth and will be able to take additional course work for greater breadth. This will provide him earlier with the basic mathematics necessary for independent Ph.D. study. The advantages of a non-thesis mathematics master's program is acknowledged and in fact practiced by the greatest majority of those universities with whom we compete for students. Thus, the non-thesis option not only improves the overall program, but also brings our master's program more in line with those of leading universities.

PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

We would like to propose a non-thesis option for the Masters Degree in Philosophy. Our reasons for making such a proposal, and our recommendations as to what should take the place of the thesis for those who choose to exercise the option follow:

I. Difficulties with the MA Thesis

1. When a Masters Degree was a terminal program, a thesis was virtually mandatory to ensure that a student entering the profession be able to conduct a significant piece of research in written form. Now that the MA no longer functions terminally and a PhD dissertation is required, this function of the MA thesis has lost much of its usefulness.

2. Increasingly, philosophers have been analyzing smaller problems, and what is required of graduate students is the ability to do close and intensive analysis of very limited subjects. For example, instead of attacking Bertrand Russell's "Philosophy", a student is more likely to be expected to analyze some aspect of his theory of descriptions. We do philosophy piecemeal, and this means briefer critical analyses are what is expected, not long theses. Our Masters Program will better serve our students if a non-thesis option were available.

3. The MA program is essentially a one-year program (except for graduate assistants), completable in a calendar year (academic year plus summer). Since the writing of a thesis normally requires a disproportionate amount of student time and energy relative to the six hours credit it receives, and forces the student to extend his program to two years or go away to his doctoral program with his thesis uncompleted, the thesis is a harmful obstacle to student progress toward the PhD degree. To impose a two-year MA program, preliminary to entering a PhD program elsewhere, is to delay the student's progress unconscionably, in our view.

4. If we had our own doctoral program we would prefer that the MA emphasize short critical papers, and would urge our own students to bypass the thesis under ordinary circumstances. We wish, therefore, to do in our own MA program without the doctoral program what we would do with a doctoral program, hence offer this change.

II. The Remedy: A non-thesis option

For the reasons indicated, the Philosophy Department proposes to offer students entering in the fall of 1969 an option of

1. Enrolling for six hours of thesis work and presenting a thesis as at present or
2. Writing three brief papers on well-defined subjects, each paper to be closely supervised by two faculty members. Each paper would carry credit for two hours of thesis research and the three papers taken together would replace the thesis.

III. Departmental implementation and achievement of the optional alternative to the thesis.

At the outset of both semesters the department would propose three of six main topics in philosophy: Aesthetics, Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Religion, Metaphysics, Epistemology and Ethics. (The History of Philosophy would be excluded since presumably students either have a sufficient background or will acquire preparation during their graduate year of course work.) The department would select and present a concise current bibliography for each topic. In presenting the topics open to the student's choice, care would be exercised

1. to avoid undue overlap with the year's teaching program;
2. to pick basic problems and materials of the sort every graduate student should know something about;
3. to offer topics and problems that would sharpen the students' critical capacities and expand their methodological studies;
4. to introduce them to what John Austin calls "Field Work in Philosophy".

Accordingly suggested sample topics might be: in Ethics on Excuses; Intentions; in Aesthetics, on the Aesthetic object, etc.

We propose to allow a student who wishes to do a conventional MA thesis the opportunity to do so, and assume that some students will continue to choose the thesis option. We wish merely to broaden the options for those who wish a different sort of research training in philosophy.

Frank B. Dilley
Frank B. Dilley
Chairman

FBD:jf

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS & COMPUTER SCIENCE

(Requirements for Proposed Non-Thesis Masters Degree Program

1. At least 30 hours of course credit must be earned by taking courses at the 600-level or above. Of this total at least 15 hours of course credit must be earned in 800-level courses. A minimum grade average of 3.0 is required.
2. Of the 30 hours of course credit at least 21 must be earned by completing courses selected from a list supplied by the department. The 21 credits must include at least 6 credits each in the areas of statistics and computer science. A minimum grade of B is required for each course selected to satisfy the 21 credit requirement.
3. Remaining credits may be earned by completing courses approved by the faculty advisor.
4. Students must pass a comprehensive examination.
5. Students are required to present at least one seminar per academic year on a topic approved by the faculty advisor.

NON-THESIS MASTER'S IN STATISTICS & COMPUTER SCIENCE

A Non-Thesis Master's Program in Statistics and Computer Science is recommended because it better satisfies the needs of those students who elect to obtain an M.S. degree in the Department of Statistics & Computer Science. Over the past several years the students entering this department have been primarily interested in increasing their knowledge of the theory and methods of statistics and computer science. Their backgrounds are usually such that their ability to communicate results of research efforts has been demonstrated. A further difficulty would be minimized by this program in that the proposed option would allow the student to complete the Masters degree in a shorter span of time thus making the qualifications of the student more definable.

Professional fields such as engineering, forestry, public health, etc., with extensive and long standing demands for specialists have satisfied their educational needs by similar programs. It seems appropriate that such a program is also useful in statistics and computer science.

Courses in statistics and computer science are proliferating to the junior colleges and many of the high schools. It is likely this trend will continue, hence the demand for teachers with backgrounds in these areas will increase. The University should attempt to meet this demand which can be best accomplished by the non-thesis Masters degree.

A survey of institutions offering courses in statistics was conducted during 1968.* The summary of that article is quoted here to demonstrate the situation at other universities.

"A thesis for the Masters degree in statistics is required of some students by 24 university departments, of all by 17 departments, and no students at 13 departments. ... It follows that a student could obtain a Masters degree from any one of 37 departments (35 universities) without presenting a thesis. Of the 16 (sic) university departments which require all students to present a Masters thesis, four are contemplating a change which would allow a non-thesis Masters degree."

The University of Delaware was not included in the above survey.

It is not intended that the non-thesis option necessarily be a terminal degree but rather to provide a reasonable set of core courses for the student qualified to continue on to the Ph.D. It further allows him to gain an earlier start on his Ph.D. research without taking time out to prepare a Masters paper.

It is anticipated that the M.S. degree with thesis will be retained in that on occasion some students will benefit from the writing of a Masters thesis. This latter option will be exercised only at the invitation of the departmental staff.

* Thesis Requirements for the Masters Degree in Statistics at American Universities," Bancroft, T.A. & Hickman, R.D., The American Statistician, Vol. 22, No. 4.