THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AND THE DEPARTMENTAL MAJOR -- SOME CONSIDERATIONS

Introduction

Flexibility

We postulated that society would continue to undergo rapid changes, and that the university must, therefore, be able to accommodate itself to new developments, often with inadequate lead time, as in the early Peace Corps programs; that it be open to innovation and experiment, not only in curriculum and program of studies, but also in the administration and management of its own affairs.

(New Patterns of Undergraduate Education)

This paper is a statement of the suggestions and concerns of the University College staff as they view the implementation of departmental majors in the university undergraduate program. While the University College is specifically charged with academic advisement, we have come to realize that students have needs and problems which are recognized only in interaction within a milieu and, of necessity, structures, systems and regulations are incomplete at inception. It is truly in daily operation that an organization and philosophy takes form. The University College is testament to this. While carefully planned, it has grown in staff, in responsibility, and in influence, primarily because it has been able to meet unforeseen needs. And it was from discussion and planning for a major responsibility, summer academic planning with freshmen, that the concerns and comments expressed in this paper arose.

The Problem

The relationship of the University College to a departmental major concept may be considered in three distinct areas, each of which influences the other. For convenience, however, they may be viewed and related in a chronological fashion. These areas are concerned with admission-selection, flexibility-transfer, and administrative-housekeeping functions. Each will be considered separately and enumerated in a topical fashion.
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1. A decision must be made concerning admission to a departmental major. Who will make that decision? When? How will it be made?

2. What (if any) instruments will be used to select students, if selection is going to be made at all? Will they keep in mind the inadequacies of high school scores and the concept of the late-blooming adolescent male?

3. Will there be recognition of freshmen naivete; does the availability of choice suggest a "forced" decision as appears so often now? In other words, will they rush to be identified with a major?

4. Will consideration be given to the ever increasing percentage of open majors?

5. Is there recognition that at least 50% of the students change their major at least once?

6. The practicalities of orientation to majors at the Summer Planning Conference must be recognized. Will a University College Advisor adapt the role of academician? Will an academician be present? Will it turn into a "public relations" contest for students? Additionally, realize how little time is available for adequate exploration during the Summer Planning Conference.

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It is a general observation that the transfer concept is not warmly embraced by many in higher education. One only has to consider the difficulties and loss of credit experienced in transfer from state unit to another.

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5. Will there be recognition that if students transfer they may take much longer than four years to complete their work? The realities of the draft and financial pressure may dampen enthusiasm to explore a new major.

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8. What will be the nature of introductory and survey courses, will they continue to be offered in the present form?

9. Would a "neutral, non-judgmental" entity (now the University College) be available for all students? See item 3.

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1. Who will be responsible for co-ordination of advisement?

2. Who will enforce university wide regulations and requirements; i.e., be a source for interpretation and maintain communication channels?

3. Will departments maintain records, worksheets, etc., and perform studies as the University College does now?

4. Will objective and subjective evaluations be made in the departments; for example, Dean's List, Probation and Dismissal?

5. Will there be effort made to avoid wasteful duplication inherent in this situation; i.e., advisement staffs, record keeping, and academic and personal counseling.
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PI:ra
1/13/69

cc: Dr. Kuusisto
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TO:
FROM: Robert B. Morris, Dean, University College
SUBJECT: Departmental Programs and University College Policy, 1969-1970
DATE: January 7, 1968

University College policy and function will be affected by the implementation of departmental programs for the year beginning September 1969. Considerable thought has been given to effecting a successful beginning. Following a meeting of Deans on December 31, 1968, Vice President Kuusisto instructed me to indicate the policy which the University College plans to follow in regard to the departmental programs as they stem from the report, *New Patterns in Undergraduate Education*. This policy will be put into effect on Vice President Kuusisto's order unless there are major reservations or questions brought to my attention in ten days' time.

**ADMISSION AND SELECTION**

1. Departments will be responsible for final admission to departmental programs. The University College will work cooperatively with departmental representatives during the Summer Planning Conference to orient and screen students.

2. Criteria for admission and instruments used for evaluation (if any) will be entirely the responsibility of the department.

3. All students who indicate a major and who are not accepted for departmental programs or who do not wish to associate with a department for advisement will be enrolled in the University College.

4. All open majors will enroll with the University College.
5. The University College will cooperate with Dean Samuel Chessin, Co-ordinator of the Summer Planning Conference, and representatives of the various academic departments to establish a procedure for orientation and selection of freshmen for departmental programs. Departments are reminded to provide funds and personnel for the planning and implementation of this new responsibility.

FLEXIBILITY-TRANSFER

1. Provision should be made for the more than 50% of students who change major. As a neutral, non-judgmental entity, the University College is best equipped to receive, advise, and reassign these students. All students changing major will return to the University College until such time as they are accepted by a department.

Since the Office of the Academic Dean will be phasing out, and it is unlikely that the administrative reorganization will be effected for 1969-1970, Juniors and Seniors will also return to the University College until a major is declared. Internal procedures will be established by the University College for uniform handling of such students.

2. The concept of departmental programs and advisement is a unique one in that its success is dependent upon rapport and interchange between student and faculty member. Provision must be made within each department for a student in a departmental program to change advisor without undue harassment.

3. For their own interests departments are reminded that introductory courses will become the "show case" for discipline and the department. The quality and level of teaching in these courses will be an important factor in influencing a freshman in selection of a major.
ADMINISTRATION AND COORDINATION OF ADVISEMENT

1. The University College will be responsible for coordination of all advisement in the University. The four lead advisors in the University College will be responsible for communication and articulation between the University College and schools and departments.

2. University wide regulations and requirements will be enforced by the Deans of the Schools.

3. For the year 1969-70 academic action for all students will be the responsibility of the University College.

4. Departments will maintain records and worksheets for students in departmental programs. The University College will offer a series of workshops during Spring 1969 to orient faculty and staff who will be responsible for departmental advisement of freshmen and sophomores, as well as juniors and seniors.
TO:

FROM: Robert B. Morris, Dean, University College

SUBJECT: Departmental Programs and University College Policy, 1969-1970

DATE: January 10, 1968

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While not currently in a formal proposal, it is possible that a departmental
program would include University College advisement for the first two years.

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3. Departments should provide funds and personnel for the planning and implementation of these new responsibilities. Provision must be made to equate advisement with teaching responsibility insofar as load, salary, promotion, and tenure are concerned. It is recommended that an adviser-student ratio of 200 to 1 be equated to a full time teaching load on a 12 month basis.
DATE: January 22, 1969

TO: Dean Robert Morris

FROM: Jack M. Deeringer

SUBJECT: Departmental Programs and University College Policy, 1969-70

Please consider the following analysis as my response to your memorandum dated January 13 concerning departmental programs as they relate to University College.

May I refer to basic assumptions that I trust did underlie the discussion found in your proposal:

1. That the undergraduate curriculum is a 120-124 hour sequence of study leading to a B.A. or B.S. including university-wide requirements and those additional requirements established by the faculty of the individual school or college.

2. That the academic advisement of undergraduate students for a number of years has been a shared responsibility. Freshmen and sophomores (fewer than 56 hours) have been advised by University College. The appropriate school or department has then assumed direct responsibility for the advisement of accepted juniors and seniors.

3. That beginning in September 1968, two developments changed the advisement plan. The Undergraduate Academic Council approved a departmental program for Public Accounting and voted to permit students to enroll directly into the School of Nursing with that school accepting the responsibility for the advisement of students throughout the four-year program.

4. That University College for the coming academic year at least, will continue to be a two-year advisement unit as presently constituted, with the Vice President for Academic Affairs responsible for the coordination of the undergraduate program of the University including the advisement of students.

With these basic assumptions in mind, may I refer to specific sections of your memorandum.
Definitions and Categories

It might be wise for the group concerned to discuss the meanings of these various definitions:

To avoid confusion, I would suggest that your reference to "departmental major" be limited to those majors found in the 1968-69 Undergraduate Bulletin within the College of Arts and Sciences, and that we consider programs in business and nursing as outlined as integrated programs since they have been designed on a school-wide basis with the field being considered the major and students advised accordingly.

In this way, the examples used for the "first" case seem appropriate. However, the examples in the "second" case seem confusing.

You refer to a major in Accounting. I do not know whether this is the program in Public Accounting described on pages161-168 of the Undergraduate Bulletin, or the departmental program approved by the Undergraduate Academic Council this summer, or the Business Administration program with an Accounting emphasis.

Your reference to the program in Science-Medical Technology and Administrative Services seem confusing. Dr. Nurnberger, Chairman of the Department of General Science, is asking that the program in Medical Technology be viewed as one which tends to parallel the program in Nursing. Dr. Nurnberger actually is asking that this be an integrated program with the Department of General Science doing the advisement throughout.

Open major -- I assume your reference to University College doing the advisement of students with open major, refers to freshmen and sophomore level students.

SELECTION OF STUDENTS

1. Reference is called to problem of definition noted above.

3. I assume you refer to open major as it relates to freshmen and sophomores generally in line with our present policy.

FLEXIBILITY AND TRANSFER

1. I assume you are referring to those who would presently be eligible to return to University College.

ADMINISTRATION AND COORDINATION OF ADVISEMENT

The reference to "coordination of undergraduate advisement" being the responsibility of University College seems misleading. I assume you mean that it would be in line with our present policy which considers University College as the advisement unit for most freshmen and sophomores.
I would hope that the deans of the degree granting units would on their own, make adequate provision for any necessary budgetary or staffing implications and would ask that any funds now appropriated by another unit be transferred to their budget in line with assuming responsibility for additional advisement.

In conclusion, may I ask that in view of questions raised, the group be reconvened before final action is taken in order to allow those of us concerned with undergraduate advisement who were unable to attend the one session, to express our thoughts to the group.

JMD:ew
cc: Vice President Allan Kuusisto
    Deans Carlock, Major, Perlmutter, Tickner
    Associate Deans Colman, McLaren, Wheeler
TO: Deans Carlock, Deeringer, Major, Perlmutter, Tickner  
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FROM: Robert B. Morris, Dean, University College

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