UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY BILL 18-2

A BILL TO ESTABLISH FACULTY QUALIFICATIONS TO TEACH 500 LEVEL GRADUATE COURSES AND IDENTIFY WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Legislative History:
1. 2-1-88, this bill was prepared and recommended to the Graduate Council by a task force of the Council.
2. 2-5-88, the Graduate Council discussed and recommended the bill to the Faculty Senate.
3. 4-4-88, Faculty Senate Steering Committee reviewed the bill and after discussion returned the bill to the Council for reconsideration.
4. 10-14 and 10-28-88, following Faculty Senate charge, Graduate Council discussed and unanimously approved a revised bill with a rationale.
5. 11-28-88, Faculty Senate Steering Committee reviewed the bill and placed it on the Faculty Senate agenda.
6. 12-2-88, first reading by the Faculty Senate.
7. 12-5-88, substitute bill prepared by Senator Yntema and presented to the Steering Committee which, in turn, approved it for introduction to the Faculty Senate.
8. 12-9-88, substitute bill passes Faculty Senate.

Section 1.

To qualify to teach a 500 level course a faculty member should have demonstrable education, scholarship, and/or experience in the subject matter of the course. A faculty member with a terminal degree in a field related to the subject matter of the course will be considered qualified to teach that course. In cases in which the faculty member does not have such a degree, it is the responsibility of the Deans of the respective schools upon recommendation by the program to determine if the scholarship and/or experience of the faculty member is sufficient to qualify him/her to teach the course.

Rationale:

Prompted by some concerns of the University’s North Central reviewers about the quality of graduate education at SSU, the Graduate Council has examined issues related to faculty qualifications. After considering many possibilities, the Graduate Council narrowed its attention to qualifications for teaching 500 level courses. The policy proposed here takes into account how programs have evolved. Specific responses were elicited from convenors of graduate programs about current staffing issues and school deans responded to an early draft of this proposal.
As a result of these efforts, the Graduate Council recommends more consistent expectations about the academic preparation and qualifications of faculty who teach 500 level courses. These courses constitute the highest academic level of instruction offered by the University and should properly draw upon the talents of faculty with eminent academic credentials and accomplishments. The University must be able to certify to its graduate students and the community that highly qualified faculty teach its most advanced courses.

The Graduate Council expects that a rigorous application of the policy will help administrators and programs identify and remedy weaknesses in their curricula and instructional staffing. These steps will inform the process of formulating priorities for budgets and staffing plans. The Graduate Council intends to monitor the policy and its effects with an eye to making results available to North Central reviewers in 1991.