



Western Michigan University
ScholarWorks at WMU

Western Newsletter (1955-71)

Western Michigan University

10-1955

Western Michigan College Newsletter, October 1955

Western Michigan University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/western_newsletter



Part of the Higher Education Commons

WMU ScholarWorks Citation

Western Michigan University, "Western Michigan College Newsletter, October 1955" (1955). *Western Newsletter (1955-71)*. 17.

https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/western_newsletter/17

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Western Michigan University at ScholarWorks at WMU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Western Newsletter (1955-71) by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at WMU. For more information, please contact wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu.



October 1955

Vol. 1, No. 1

Probationary Admission Best for Graduate Work

One of the greatest problems for graduate administrators is the policy for admission to graduate school. An examination of the studies related to this problem indicates that it has been studied extensively. However the findings have not been fruitful of many definite conclusions. As aptly stated by Dean Koch of the University of Michigan, "The bibliography of research studies related to graduate-school admission is as long as your arm. Yet, is the thorniest problem we have." The investigations just mentioned substantiate his statement completely.

In a situation in which graduate enrollments are small and in which faculty time and finances are readily available, the problem of admission tends to be slight. Personal interviews and counseling, without doubt, will enable many graduate

students who would ordinarily fail to succeed. However, at the present time growing graduate enrollments make such personal attention impossible. As a result the student must take much personal responsibility for his success.

At Western Michigan College admission to graduate work has been a matter of concern from the beginning. Before the independent program of graduate studies was initiated much study was given the problem. Because of the lack of agreement about admission standards it was decided to admit any student *to take graduate work* who had received a bachelor's degree or its equivalent from an accredited institution. *This admission does not imply candidacy for the Master's Degree.* A student may petition for candidacy only after he has com-

pleted at least ten (10) hours of work *on campus* with at least a "B" average, shows ability to express himself effectively both in his written and oral communication, is free from personality defects likely to hamper his success as a teacher, and shows evidence of ability or potential in the art of teaching. It is still a matter of conjecture as to whether or not this constitutes a satisfactory standard. Yet according to Shelton and Fishback it is used in about 85% of all graduate institutions for *admission to work at the master's level.*

At Western Michigan College this policy for admission seems to be working satisfactorily. However, the administration has continually sought objective evidence about the merits of this, as well as every other, method of admission with a view toward modifying admission policy if the evidence so warrants.

As part of this policy of continuous evaluation, it was decided to review the literature dealing with the subject of admissions in the hope of improving the procedure if such were indicated. Hence, the libraries of Western Michigan College and

the University of Michigan were searched to locate publications on this subject. The report that follows summarizes the findings:

The Findings

An analysis of the reports on admission indicates that there are four basic considerations for admission, namely, (1) undergraduate point-hour ratio; (2) comprehensive examination; (3) personal interview; and (4) receipt of a bachelor's degree. For convenience this review will be classified according to these considerations.

Admission on Undergraduate Point-Hour Ratio:

Although many of the larger state universities admit students to graduate school on the basis of their grades in undergraduate school, no report was found that dealt with the adequacy of this criterion. There is one unpublished study available, namely, the one undertaken at Western Michigan College. In this study the records of one hundred and forty (140) students who had taken at least twenty (20) semester hours of graduate work at Western Michigan College were selected from the files in the Records Office. Seventy of these records were selected at random from those of students who had been admitted under the cooperative program with the University of Michigan and seventy at random from those under the independent graduate program of Western Michigan College.

Coefficients of correlation were then computed between the point-hour ratios the students obtained in their undergraduate work and those they obtained in their graduate. The following results were obtained:

No. of Students	Group	Results Obtained
70	Cooperative Program	.023
70	W.M.C. Program	.04
All Students		.032

The data in the above table show that the prediction of graduate

success from undergraduate grades (at least at Western Michigan College) is little better than pure chance.

Only one conclusion can be made. If it is necessary to admit *half* of a group of applicants, then those who achieve in the upper half in prior study are likely to be more successful in later work than those in the lower half. However, since admission is given to individuals and not to groups, this conclusion is not directly applicable.

Admission by Comprehensive Examination:

Of all the efforts to find an "objective basis" for admission to graduate school, the comprehensive examination appears to have been studied most widely. Studies by Travers, Travers and Wallace, Garrett, Heston, Traxler, and Lannholm, all deal with the use of comprehensive examinations for this purpose. Yet they all fail to substantiate their validity for selecting students for graduate school.

Admission by Interview

Most schools have some type of interview for admission to undergraduate school, some have it for admission to graduate study. However, the interview for graduate school is usually designed to obtain impersonal data, supplement the personal information on record cards, or help counsel students into certain areas of study. Seldom are they the primary factor for determining admission.

The time and effort expended in such a procedure of interviewing does not seem to justify the results that are obtained.

Admission on Proof of a Bachelor's Degree from an Accredited Institution:

work is found in eighty-five percent (85) of the degree granting institutions.

So far the justification for this method has been on philosophical grounds. Since none of the traditional methods have proved to be satisfactory, many schools have tried this one.

It has been stated that an educated population cannot be obtained by restricting admissions, especially since not enough of the educable populace is now being trained. Munroe points out that if the facilities of colleges are adequate "then there is not much point in using selective devices" other than evidence of having completed the earlier degree since tests have not proved of great value. A report of the American Council on Education suggests that the "criterion becoming more widely accepted is demonstration of ability to do work of desired quality."

Recommendations

Certain recommendations seem reasonable in light of the studies already described as well as by others not cited. These recommendations seem to suggest the following pattern with respect to admission:

1. Admission of all students with bachelor's degrees to the graduate program at the Master's Degree level. This admission should be probationary for at least ten (10) hours.

2. The courses taken in this probationary period should be selected so as to test the student in the areas of his deficiencies and weaknesses. He should not be allowed to select "snap courses" or merely exploit areas in which his qualifications are already satisfactory.

3. The marking system should be realistic, not based on a "B stereotype." The student should be given the grade he earns, not one that allows the teacher to avoid the responsibility for honest evaluation.

4. At the end of the probationary period, the student should be admitted to, or rejected from, candidacy if he fails to meet the minimal academic qualifications. Further he

(Continued on Page 4)

As already indicated, this policy for admission to master's degree



Helgesen



Herald



McBeth



Overton



Powell



Pugh

Faculty Growth Continues as Enrollment Climbs

Continuing the introduction of new faculty members, we would like to present twelve persons who have come to the Western Michigan College campus this fall, and who are now busy with their classwork.

Dr. Eunice Herald is the lone new department head added to the regular faculty this fall, taking the place of Dr. Lilyan Galbraith in home economics. Dr. Herald is a familiar person to Michigan people concerned with home economics, as she taught at Highland Park from 1933 until her appointment here. She is a graduate of MSU and holds two advanced degrees from the U-M. Dr. Herald is also president-elect of the Michigan Home Economics Association.

Charles R. Helgesen comes from the University of Vermont to direct men's debate and to teach speech. He had been at Vermont since 1952, and before that taught at Denver University and Duluth, Minn. He has degrees from the State Teachers College at St. Cloud, Minn., and

Denver. Mr. and Mrs. Helgesen have three daughters.

From Ft. Hays, Kans., comes John H. McBeth to teach in business studies. After graduation from Indiana University, he has taught at La-Crosse, Ind., and Harding College. He has a master's degree from the University of Alabama and has studied at Columbia University. Mr. and Mrs. McBeth have two daughters and a son.

Returning to the campus is Harvey W. Overton, a 1947 graduate, who teaches in the education department. He taught in Battle Creek until 1954 and then spent one year at Eastern Michigan College. He has two children.

New to the mathematics faculty is Dr. James H. Powell, who had taught one year at the University of Detroit and five years at MSU while completing his graduate studies. He is married and has one son.

Following four years on the faculty of the University of Iowa, David G. Pugh joins the communication fac-

ulty at Western as an assistant professor. He has also taught two years at the University of Mississippi. Pugh holds degrees from Drury College and the University of Chicago. He is married.

Dr. David F. Sadler began his college teaching at Hamline University after graduating from Antioch College. He holds degrees from the University of Minnesota, where he also taught one year. Last year Dr. Sadler was at the General Motors Institute, Flint. A native of South Carolina, he is married and has three children.

The psychology department has added Dr. Richard H. Schmidt to its faculty this fall, coming from Ft. Hays College, Kansas. He has also taught at Gustavus Adolphus College and at Oklahoma A & M. The latter school has awarded him three degrees. He is married.

Hobart H. Sorensen returned from England this fall with his family just in time to begin his fall teaching schedule. They had lived abroad for

Sadler

Schmidt

Sorensen

VanDeventer

Vuicich

Walz



two years, and Sorensen had taught at Eerde, Ommen, Holland. He has also taught at Coalinga College in California and at Ojai, California. Degrees have been granted him by the University of Iowa and Columbia University. Mr. and Mrs. Sorensen have three children.

Teaching of aviation subjects in the department of industrial technology is now being handled by Clarence N. VanDeventer, for the last nine years on the staff of the Hamilton, Ind., technical vocational high school. He is a graduate of the State Teachers College, Winona, Minn. Mr. and Mrs. VanDeventer have two daughters.

George Vuicich is teaching social sciences in the training school this fall, following three years as a critic teacher at the University of Iowa. He holds two degrees from that school, and has also taught at Washington, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Vuicich have one son.

Moving from the Kalamazoo Cerebral Palsy Training Center is Miss Phoebe Walz, who has now begun teaching in occupational therapy. She had directed the center for the last year after four years in OT work for the Muskegon public schools. She is a WMC graduate.

The former department of vocational, industrial and technical education has shortened its name this year to department of industrial technology.

New Basketball Season Opens Dec. 1

- *Dec. 1—Detroit Tech.
- Dec. 3—Northwestern
- Dec. 7—Bowling Green!
- *Dec. 10—Central Michigan
- Dec. 14—Toledo!
- *Dec. 17—Marshall!
- *Dec. 21—Loyola
- *Jan. 4—Bowling Green!
- Jan. 7—Marshall!
- Jan. 9—Ohio University!
- Jan. 13—Miami!
- *Jan. 16—Kent State!
- Jan. 18—Valparaiso
- *Jan. 28—Toledo!
- Feb. 1—Kent State!
- Feb. 4—USNTS (Great Lakes)
- *Feb. 11—Miami!
- Feb. 15—Loyola
- *Feb. 18—USNTS (Great Lakes)
- *Feb. 21—Valparaiso
- *Feb. 25—Ohio University!
- *Feb. 27—Indiana State
- ! Mid-American Conference Games
- * Home Games, 8:00 P.M.

Final Home Grid Contest Set Nov. 19

As this goes to press, the Bronco footballers have one remaining home game, a Mid-American conference affair Nov. 19 against Kent State University of Kent, O.

Last year the Ohioans were victorious in their meeting with the Broncos, and based on the current season records must be favored again this year.

Traditionally, the final game at home will be marked as Dad's Day.

Graduate Studies

(Continued from Page 2)
should show sufficient physical stamina and emotional stability to be able to continue his graduate work successfully.

5. A second check should be made later to see if the student still evidences his earlier promise. If not, he should be returned to probation.

—George G. Mallinson

Volume I, Number I

This is volume one, number one—always a bold experiment in any publication. Because of the quarterly frequency of the sixteen-year-old *News Magazine*, it was decided to supplement it with this shorter version and to call it the *WMC News Letter*. Publication is now planned eight times each year. The art work evident in this issue is by John Kemper, well known member of the faculty always ready to lend a helping hand.

WESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

News
LETTER

KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

Application for entry as second-class matter is pending. Published eight times a year—October, December, January, March, April, June, July, September—by Western Michigan College, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Russell A. Strong, Editor