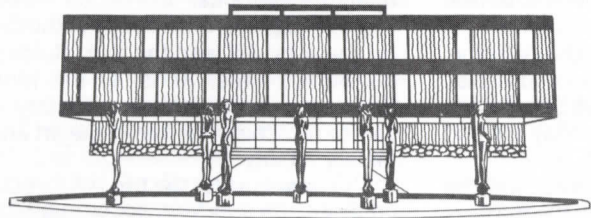


OAKLAND UNIVERSITY NEWS



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A publication for faculty, staff and friends

OU Senate Removes 'N Grade' Option

The University Senate has reinstated the 0.0 or F grade for undergraduate students who have completed a course unsuccessfully.

The action was approved February 9 and becomes effective this fall. The vote rescinded a policy whereby unsuccessful students had received an N grade for no credit.

The N grade has been in effect since 1970 and allowed a student who remained in a course, but failed to complete the course successfully, to receive an N. The grade carried no credit, did not appear on the external transcript, and did not enter into the student's grade point average.

The university had been forced to monitor student records to determine if a student had received so many N grades that he or she was not making normal progress toward a degree. Students in this category were dismissed.

The Academic Standing and Honors Committee and the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction had recommended dropping the N grade, saying, "The adjustment of the grading system toward clarity and truth in representing student standing should be attractive to students interested in credentials from a university which maintains quality by embracing a reasonably stringent and realistic system of evaluation."

The recommending committees also pointed out that the N grade did not truly reflect student performance and could delude the student into misconstruing his or her own progress and to misrepresent student performance to prospective employers and faculty with access to student records. The use of the N grade also complicated and impeded the work of advisers and university committees charged with assessing student academic standing, university officials said.

The university began an N grade system in part to encourage students to try new courses far removed from their major without fear of hurting their grade point averages or their chances for graduate school.

The Senate action alters the university numerical grade conversion scale. Courses are graded 3.6 to 4.0, A; 3.0 to

3.5, B; 2.0 to 2.9, C; 1.0 to 1.9, D; and now 0.0, F. The N was also removed from course withdrawal options. The satisfactory/no credit (S/N) grade was replaced by satisfactory/unsatisfactory (S/U) with the U grade to appear on a student's academic transcript.

Other items the Senate approved for undergraduates were:

- Eliminating the WS and WN grades.
- Changing the P grade to 0.0 if not removed within two calendar years of its assignment.
- Changing the period for granting the W grade (withdrawal without assessment of progress) to nine weeks in a 14-week course and five weeks in a seven-week course.
- Using the I grade (incomplete) in the case of a severe hardship beyond the control of the student which occurs after the cut-off date for use of the W grade and which prevents the student from completing course requirements.
- Requiring completion of work to remove an I grade be accomplished during the first eight weeks of the next semester (fall or winter) for which a student registers, unless an extension is requested by the student and approved by the instructor and the dean of the appropriate school or college. The I grade shall be changed to a 0.0 grade at the end of that semester if the work has not been completed. If more than three terms intervene before the student next registers at OU, the I shall be changed to a 0.0 grade.



The first inductees into the OU Athletic Hall of Honor were feted at a dinner February 11 in Meadow Brook Hall. The five former standout athletes and administrators all contributed to making the present athletic programs successful through their efforts. At top, basketball star Kathy Hewelt, center, was surprised by members of her basketball team from Indiana, where she now coaches; at right, former Athletic Director Corey Van Fleet reminisces; and at bottom, basketball star Carvin Melson receives a boutonniere from his wife, Lynn. Other inductees were swimmer Paul Karas and Hollie Lepley, the first athletic director at OU.



OU Hosts ACE Seminar

The social impact of high technology and the role to be played by higher education is the topic for state educators meeting March 12 at OU.

The conference topic is **The Challenge of Economic and Technological Change: Choices for Higher Education.**

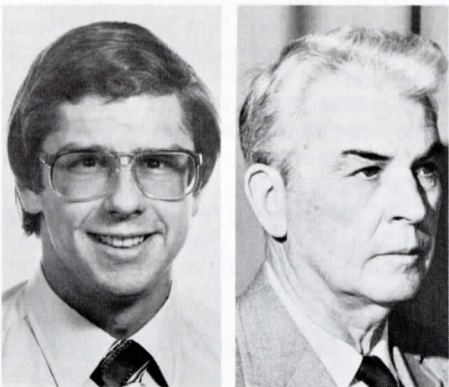
In addition to three sessions in Meadow Brook Hall, the conferees will attend a fourth program at noon at the Economic Club of Detroit. They will hear Presidents Harold T. Shapiro of the University of Michigan, M. Cecil Mackey of Michigan State University, and Dale F. Stein of Michigan Technological University speaking on the relationship between a sound university system and state economic development. OU President Joseph E. Champagne will serve as the presiding

officer and chair the panel.

The conference is sponsored by OU through the Office of the President, the American Council on Education (ACE) National Identification Program, the OU Chapter of ACE, and the Michigan Planning Committee. The national identification program helps identify and advance the careers of women who hold major decision-making positions in higher education.

Sponsors of the March 12 conference say the future of colleges and universities in the state is closely tied to issues of economic recovery and that efforts are being made to form partnerships with state leaders. Initiatives are underway to

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Insurance Settlements Reached

The university has accepted two insurance settlements, one for the loss of rare books at Kresge Library and the other for the contents and building losses incurred in a fire last June 9.

The settlement for the rare books is \$49,493 and was paid by two insurance carriers. The loss was discovered last March 22 and found to include 542 volumes or 304 titles with a value of \$74,493.

Bill Small, assistant vice president for administration and risk management, explains that since no proof could be obtained about the actual date or dates of the thefts, two insurance companies that had covered the university shared in the settlement. The university had been and is now covered by Insurance Company of North America, but at the time the loss was actually discovered, Fireman's Fund was the insurance carrier.

Small says the settlement represents the actual value of the books minus the deductible charges of \$25,000. The university has a \$5,000 deductible clause for each incident, but since no proof could be found as to whether the books were taken at one time or in a series of thefts, a compromise of five incidents was negotiated.

In the settlement for the fire loss, the university has received a \$946,000 settlement. A stable used for storage and a maintenance building were destroyed. A riding hall adjacent to the buildings and a stable north of the riding hall were damaged.

A storage building for the golf course will be built to replace one of the destroyed buildings. The new building will cost about \$200,000 and will be built on a site closer to the golf course.

