

ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE SCHOOLS
IN CATHOLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Minutes of the Meeting of December 5, 1990

Westin - St. Francis Hotel

San Francisco, CA

I. Participants present and their institutions were:

Nancy Brady	Holy Names College
Francis Catania	Loyola University-Chicago
Sr. Anne Clark	College of Saint Rose
Marsha Daley	John Carroll University
Ronald Danielson	Santa Clara Univeristy
Patricia DeLeeuw	Boston College
Peter Diffley	University of Notre Dame
Richard Farmer	Sacred Heart University
Ann Faulkner	Loyola University-Chicago
Sr. Alice Gallin	Exec. Director, ACCU
Fr. James Heft	University of Dayton
Michael Lawler	Creighton University
Chau Le	University of Notre Dame
Katy Marre	University of Dayton
Paul Medici	St. John's University
Robert Nikolai	Saint Louis University
Jane Norton	Seton Hall University
Mary Powers	Fordham University
James Rocko	Loyola University-Chicago
Robert Sheeran	Seton Hall University
Sr. Diana Stano	Ursuline College
Barbara Turpin	University of Notre Dame
Sally Wertheim	John Carroll University
Daniel Ziegler	Villanova University

The meeting was chaired by Chau Le and called to order at 7:15 p.m. (The Minutes of the AGSCCU meeting of November 29, 1989, held in Washington, D.C., were drafted, mailed to the member institutions represented, and amended per responses received by the Secretary-Treasurer.)

- II. Chau Le, President of the AGSCCU, welcomed everyone, and led self-introductions of representatives of member institutions and guests. Katy Marre, Executive Committee member of the AGSCCU, introduced the Rev. James L. Heft, S.M., Provost of the University of Dayton, who had been invited to address the meeting participants. Father Heft presented his paper entitled "Catholic Identity and Graduate Education" from prepared text.

Father Heft began by reiterating five recent observations of Clark Kerr descriptive of U.S. higher education during the 20th century which suggested that, while planning was undertaken, the character of the academy was largely shaped by outside influences, and higher education survived challenges and grew. Fr. Heft suggested that Dr. Kerr's observations were applicable also specifically to Catholic higher education, and proceeded through an overview of the 19th- and 20th-century history of Catholic graduate education in this country. He spoke of the changes in administration, the emergence of postbaccalaureate professional programs, an attempt to centralize graduate education at The Catholic University of America, the growth in student bodies after World War II, and the subsequent expansion and duplication of doctoral programs. He noted that more recent plans of some on a national scale toward fewer and stronger graduate programs in Catholic institutions have not received substantial support to date.

Fr. Heft drew from a variety of sources in describing the "Catholic" university: the four essential characteristics expressed in the recently released Apostolic Constitution Ex Corde Ecclesiae; an expression in 1960 by the president of St. John's University; and William Shea's contention that its new identity must be pluralistic. He suggested that Catholicism must be integral with scholarship, and that the faculty must be willing to explore together the ethical and religious dimensions of their disciplines, and the whole of Catholic intellectual tradition. He proposed that the administrators of Catholic universities need to find ways to express Catholic identity for our educational communities, and suggested that we might learn from Pepperdine University's statement of purpose.

Finally, Fr. Heft offered four suggestions to Catholic graduate education: a) the fundamental purpose of education in Catholic universities, quality education within the development of the Catholic intellectual tradition, must be constantly front and center (considering, for example, the challenge presently facing our graduate theology programs); b) our offerings must be Catholic and good (and the establishment of a national center for research in the Catholic intellectual tradition is recommended), and the dimensions of ethics and religious integrity must be explored; c) faculties must be recruited and developed who will embrace the missions of our institutions within the Catholic intellectual tradition; and d) we must broaden our admission guidelines to embrace all of the deserving and capable applicants, and meet our obligations as faculty to aid in the development of the whole student.

Edward Miller, introduced by Katy Marre, gave an initial

response to Fr. Heft's paper. Dr. Miller suggested that infusing Catholic identity at the graduate level is a formidable challenge; to do so he proposed that 1) we must achieve excellence in our Theology offerings, 2) Catholicity must be integrated into our graduate programs, and 3) all of the faculty must make a commitment to Catholic tradition. He wondered whether Catholic identity was realizable in graduate programs other than in Theology. Notably, the emphasis in seeking Catholic identity is on people; in contrast, Cardinal Newman focused on the milieu within which people interact. Creating an environment conducive to interdisciplinary dialogue--to discuss ethical issues and Catholicity--is a substantial challenge. Dr. Miller remarked that Cardinal Newman's reference was knowledge, enabling error in the search for truth. The Pope's position is that truth is given/known. In John Paul II and Newman we see faith versus reason and potential for impasses; Dr. Miller termed these approaches "dielectric"--processes that seemingly could be nonharmonious and produce clashes between the university and the Church. He emphasized that such clashes must not result in rifts because the university and the Church as institutions are clearly useful to one other.

Chau Le inquired if any other participants wished to comment. Francis Catania reflected on several points made by the speakers and mentioned the new Ph.D. degree program in Theology and the ethics institute at Loyola University. Fr. Heft commented on the "dielectric" analogy and suggested that any new idea should be discussed/debated with reference to Catholic intellectual tradition. Mary Powers remarked that not all Catholic intellectuals may be found in Catholic institutions, and those outside our colleges cannot be ignored. Sr. Gallin mentioned the commission on Catholic intellectual life. Edward Miller again questioned the resolution of the "dielectric." Mary Powers proposed that more such discussions are occurring on our campuses than we know, particularly within interdisciplinary contexts. Fr. Heft suggested that conversations between Arts and Sciences faculty and the professions may be a start at his own institution.

- III. Chau Le asked Sr. Alice Gallin to comment on the recently released Apostolic Constitution on Catholic universities. Sr. Gallin remarked that the Pope had signed the long-awaited document on August 15 and that the responses to date from the higher-education community have generally been positive. She noted that the Constitution is the result of twenty years of dialogue worldwide, and that the classicist reality from earlier drafts remains in the final version of the document. She said that John Paul II did himself write the introduction, and therein reflects

on the university, and the Catholic university in particular, as an institution. Sr. Gallin noted that comments in the Constitution on institutional autonomy, academic freedom, research, the roles of lay people and of non-Catholics, and levels of majesterial teaching were finalized during an eight-day meeting in Rome in April 1989, and that ninety university presidents contributed. She views as a goal that the majority of the faculty members of a "Catholic" college/university should be Catholics. Sr. Gallin closed by suggesting that we all are now called to a renewal of our collective Catholic identity.

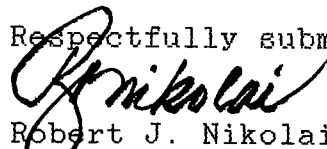
- IV. Robert Nikolai reported on the project to assist our interested graduates who seek teaching positions. He referred to the one-page report included in the agenda mailing, and noted that, even with a 15% increase this year over last in the number of biographic sketches and the higher assessments of participating institutions, costs again will not be met. He remarked that less than 40% of the graduates are interested in high-school positions, yet two-thirds of the booklets are mailed to secondary-school principals, and that very few of the survey forms placed in last year's booklets were sent to him. Suggested was that, if the Association cannot determine that the booklet is helpful to our graduates, the project should be dropped. Dr. Nikolai commented that, with 215 resumes now in hand, we should go ahead this year. He said that the survey form would again be placed in the booklet with an urgent request for feedback from recipients, and a decision for a next edition of the booklet could be made before the start of the Fall 1991 semester.
- V. Michael Lawler introduced the proposed revision of the AGSCCU Constitution included in the agenda mailing for this meeting. He noted in particular the new Article 10 on dues. Mary Power moved approval of the revised Constitution; Edward Miller seconded the motion. The difference between Full and Associate members was explained; Catholic institutions offering graduate work but not members of the Council of Graduate Schools may be Associate members of the AGSCCU. The revised Constitution was subsequently approved by a voice vote.
- VI. Chau Le turned the attention of the participants to two items of old business. Robert Nikolai recalled the discussion of one year ago pertaining to reduced tuition rates for religious. He reported that his own university was considering reinstatement of reduced rates, perhaps through scholarships, for FY1992. He asked for a show of hands of institutions having such reduced rates. Indications were that most institutions represented had reduced tuition for religious, and many also for elementary- and

secondary-school teachers as well.

Sr. Gallin was asked if the AGSCCU could become formally affiliated with the ACCU. She replied that no provision for such an affiliation now exists. Sr. Clark thought that the two associations were linked in 1981. Sr. Gallin replied that, in 1981, an ACCU survey of graduate students in Catholic institutions was taken with the assistance of the AGSCCU.

- VII. Chau Le requested the report of the Nominating Committee. Sally Wertheim, Chairperson, first named the other committee members: Mary Powers and Fr. Thaddeus Burch (Marquette University). She reported the nominees as Sr. Anne Clark for AGSCCU Chairperson, and Katy Marre, Michael Lawler, and Francis Catania for at-large members of the Executive Committee for three-, two-, and one-year terms, respectively. Dr. Wertheim noted that the Secretary-Treasurer serves at the request of the Executive Committee. Dr. Le inquired if anyone wished to make nominations from the floor; no response was forthcoming. The slate of nominees was then elected by acclamation.
- VIII. Turning to new business, Chau Le yielded the floor to Francis Catania. Dr. Catania announced that Loyola, Marquette, Notre Dame, and Saint Louis Universities were in the process of formalizing a consortium entitled "Midwest Catholic Graduate Schools." In place informally for almost two years, he said that the consortium has exchanged and coordinated information on graduate offerings, visited each other's graduate-school fairs, is about to announce a visitation program to enable a "home" student to spend a semester at one of the other three "host" universities, and is discussing sabbatical exchanges of faculty. Katy Marre suggested that, if permissible, the University of Dayton might be interested in joining the consortium.
- Edward Miller indicated concern about the new policy from the U.S. Department of Education that, effective January 1, 1991, would require graduate schools to have on file for all new students proof of possession of a high-school diploma or the G.E.D., or be liable for loss of specific federal funds.
- IX. The agenda having been completed, the meeting was adjourned by mutual consent at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Robert J. Nikolai
Secretary-Treasurer