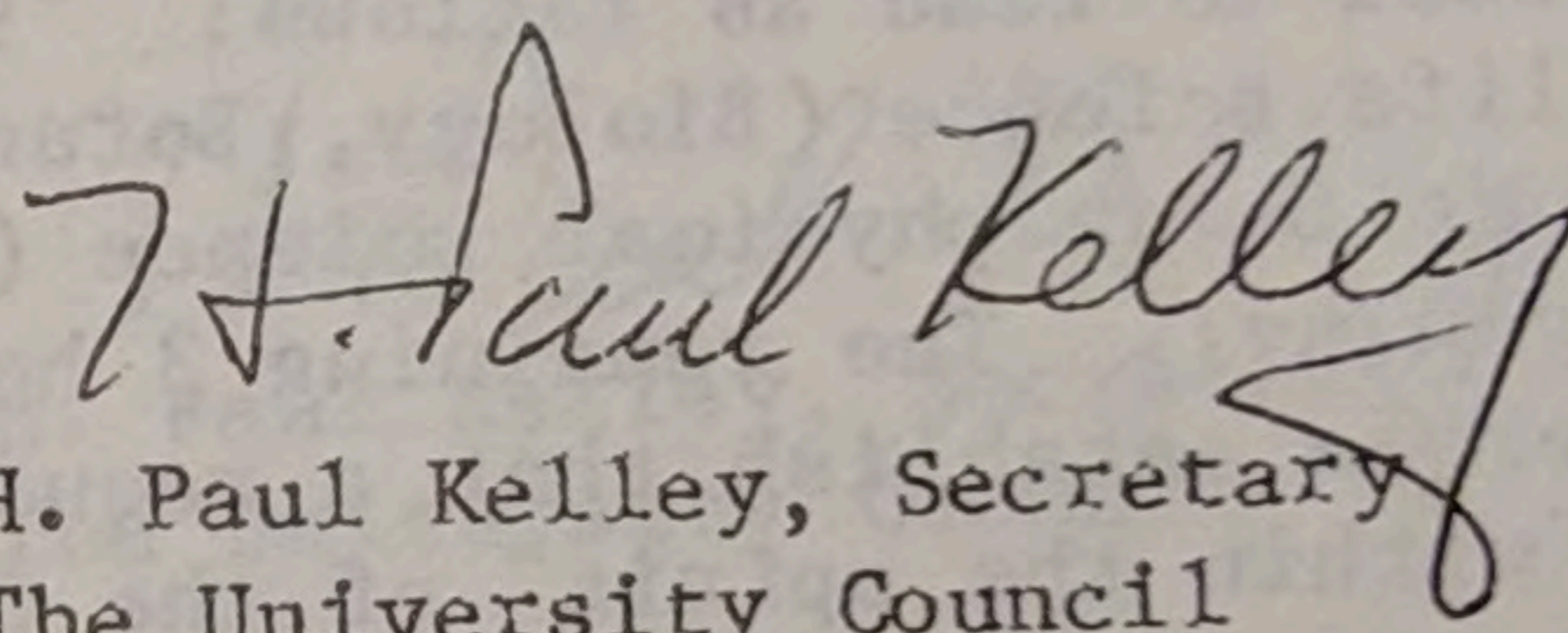


DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

FOUR MOTIONS CONCERNING THE BASIC EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS
IN WRITING AND NATURAL SCIENCE

James W. Daniel (Mathematics) has filed with the Secretary of the University Council the four motions concerning U.T. Austin basic education requirements in Writing and Natural Science set forth below. The Secretary has classified these motions as major legislation. The 21-day circulation rule for major legislation will be complied with on November 4, 1982.

Notice is hereby given that these motions will be presented to the University Council for discussion at its meeting on October 18, 1982, and for action at its meeting on November 15, 1982.


H. Paul Kelley, Secretary
The University Council

FOUR MOTIONS CONCERNING THE BASIC EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS
IN WRITING AND NATURAL SCIENCE

In December, 1980, the University Council Committee on Basic Education Requirements (James W. Vick, Chairman) submitted its report (D&P 8148-8166). In March, 1981, the University Council voted to receive the report and to recommend that each College and School make changes in its undergraduate degree requirements to bring them within the spirit of the report. The first three such sets of changes have been submitted for University Council action on October 18, 1982, and additional sets will be submitted for Council action on November 15, 1982.

Examination of the first three sets of changes has suggested the need for several modifications of the basic education requirements in Writing and Natural Science.

The Writing requirement now includes 6 hours of upper division courses "certified to have a substantial writing component." As currently being interpreted, the courses are to be certified for this purpose by the Dean of the College or School in which each course is taught. However, in its report (D&P 8160), the Committee on Basic Education Requirements recommended "that the certification of such courses be the responsibility of a standing University committee. Its membership should be broadly representative of our faculty...." That recommendation was included in the legislative formulation of the Committee's recommendations (D&P 8247).

In order to implement the recommendation of the Committee on Basic Education Requirements, the following motions will be made for approval by the University Council:

1. I move that, as recommended by the Committee on Basic Education Requirements both in its formal report (D&P 8160) and in its formalized legislation (D&P 8247), certification of courses as "having a substantial writing component" in order to meet degree requirements be the responsibility solely of the University Standing Committee on Writing.

- 2. I move that the University Standing Committee on Writing be created, to consist of ten to fifteen members appointed by the President from a list provided in the usual fashion by the Committee on Committees.
- 3. I move that each academic dean be asked by the University Council to submit to the University Standing Committee on Writing a list of courses from that School or College proposed for certification as having a substantial writing component, with accompanying brief justification; and that that Committee be charged with distributing a list of certified courses prior to preregistration in each semester (starting in the spring of 1983).

In preparation for the University Council action on the Report of the Committee on Basic Education Requirements, Mary Ann Rankin (Zoology) submitted a proposal (D&P 8226-8228) that the Natural Science requirement be revised to read as follows: "9 hours of which at least 3 hours must be in life science (Biology, Botany, Zoology, or Microbiology) and at least 3 must be in physical science (Chemistry, Geology, Physics, or Astronomy). The remaining 3 hours may be taken in either area." In order to establish that a requirement worded in the manner quoted above is "within the spirit" of the Committee's report, the following motion will be made for approval by the University Council:

- 4. I move that the University Council declare: 1) that the Rankin Amendment to require a life science/physical science division in the Basic Education Requirement in Science is "in the spirit" of the "Vick Committee" Report; and 2) that, therefore, the Rankin Amendment is germane and may properly be offered in either the main education-requirement legislation in either the main motion or in an amendment thereto.