The Student's Voice

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The Curriculum Committee Is

The Students' Voice

by Joan Goul

Technical Journalism Sophomore

THE HIGH SCHOOL student going into Home Economics should not feel that she is going into a curriculum that has been set down by the faculty many years ago and is permanently fixed like an iron fence. Iowa State home economics students do have a choice in the planning of their curriculum.

Whenever students on campus have a complaint about a course they are taking, they can take it to the Home Economics Student Curriculum Committee. This is a committee of students, assisted by faculty members. They live with you on campus in the houses and dormitories. At your request they will take any problems to the committee.

One of the main purposes of the committee is to secure the students' opinion on curriculum problems and take them to the faculty curriculum committee. Although the student committee does not have the power to change courses, their opinion is highly regarded by the faculty as the faculty realizes this committee is the voice of the home economics student body.

Purpose of committee

The purpose of the committee is to bring the student body the changes in curriculum the faculty has made and to act as a uniting factor between the faculty and students. Dr. Mary Lyle, head of the Department of Education, is the faculty advisor of this unusual group, unusual because home economics is the only division on campus to have such a committee.

The group also works closely with the student counselors, especially those for junior college. During fall quarter, the committee, assisted by the counselors, gave one of the programs sponsored at the Freshman Home Economics Club.

A skit was given at the program emphasizing the fact that counselors are here to help you, and it is wise to get to know them. With the counselor's assistance, freshmen can plan schedules that will fit in the core curriculum as easily as possible. Then you can start work on your major and you'll be able to plan for more electives.

The most recent change in the core curriculum is the requiring of only two economics courses and an elective instead of three required ones. Starting in the fall of 1952, you have an elective choice of any economics or sociology courses for which you have prerequisites.

A nutritional course was put in the freshman curriculum 3 years ago because this side of food was being neglected. This course prepares you for the work you do in courses you must take in later years.

Last year a survey of the courses taken during freshman and sophomore years was made. The chief discovery was that freshmen were not taking enough credit hours. This made the sophomore year too heavy. The average student had to take 17 or 18 credits per quarter later on to make up for the loss in the freshman year.

New freshman plan

This year a new plan for freshman schedules was made trying to give each girl 16 credits. All upperclassmen remember how there were three possible schedules for their first quarter. Each girl either got the heavy one, the medium one, or the light one. Three possible schedules are still made up for the fall quarter, but beginning last quarter, the schedules were more evenly set up.

Anne Cownie, a Textiles and Clothing junior from Des Moines, Iowa, is president of the committee. There are 21 members divided as follows: seven seniors, eight juniors, and six sophomores. At least two members who are chosen are transfer students.

Any student of home economics qualifies for membership on this committee. Each spring applications are called for, and the vacancies left by students who graduate or drop out of college are filled. You are a member of the committee your remaining years of college once you are elected.

So you see, Iowa State home economics students do have a voice in the planning of their curriculum. All you have to do is, "Speak up!"

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