

# Cut System Reviewed

(The following recommendation from the SGA regarding class cuts is published in full for students' benefit.—ed.)

Many at Mars Hill, faculty as well as students, have been unhappy with the system presently being followed. It is hard to justify deducting semester hours and quality points from credit in a course in which a student is doing "C" work or better. Work of this quality would seem to merit full academic credit, and some better method of making clear the importance of regular class attendance is needed.

This situation led the SGA to form a committee to study possibilities of revising our cut system. A sheet was distributed to faculty and students alike in an effort to consider every possibility. The sheet asked for new suggestions as well as checking the list of suggestions it included. A few suggestions were made, all of which were considered by the committee. Cut systems of some other colleges were also reviewed and considered.

A small group of the faculty indicated the need for a stricter allowance of class cuts than is now allowed. Many agreed that the present set-up is most desirable, and a large group expressed a preference for "restricted" unlimited cuts for upperclassmen with a stricter allowance for freshmen.

Ninety-six percent of the 600 students who participated in the poll felt that there should be a change from the present cut system. Similarly, the committee found many schools stricter and many more liberal than Mars Hill in cut systems. Every policy considered seemed to have some holes in its structure.

In trying to understand the situation thoroughly, the committee realized several basic principles. This philosophy was accepted: Regular class attendance is an important part of a student's academic work, including tests and written work, done in all class meetings. No right or privilege exists which authorizes a student to be absent from any given number of class meetings. Each student must decide for himself whether he will do the work expected in his courses well or whether he will try to get by with as little work as possible. The instructor in each course must decide on the basis of a variety of evidence whether or not a student has done his work well. Attendance and participation in class work is one kind of evidence to be considered.

Therefore, the committee requests consideration of the following suggestions as possibilities for the 1967-1968 school year:

- (1) All freshmen and all students having below a "C" average should be allowed

one cut for each hour the class meets a week. Remaining upperclassmen having a "C" average should be allowed a cut percentage of 25% of the classes in a semester. All Dean's List students (excluding freshmen) should have unlimited cuts.

- (2) All freshmen and all students having below a "C" average should be allowed one cut for each hour the class meets a week. The remaining upperclassmen having a "C" average should be allowed two cuts per semester hour the class meets a week. Dean's List students (excluding freshmen) should have unlimited cuts.

This committee feels that just as Mars Hill College should offer its students the opportunity to learn, so must it offer the opportunity to mature, for both are essential in education. And just as the maturing of Mars Hill College into a senior institution is a gradual process, so is the maturing of its student body. Committee members feel that a revision of the present cut system, allowing a student more freedom, would be a step in this process, for with this added freedom in class attendance comes the responsibility of judging its importance.

The committee has recommended changes that would give upperclassmen having a "C" average more possible cuts because it feels that their responsibility in the academic field merits them the opportunity of more responsibility provided by a revised cut system. The committee has also recommended unlimited cuts for Dean's List students believing that students of their caliber would be able to judge maturely the importance of class attendance. It also feels that these would be incentives for students in their academic studies to maintain good grades and work for higher ones.

Let it be understood by students and faculty if either of the above is adopted that teachers are not responsible for extra time to explain work a student misses by cutting a class. Let it also be understood that periods in which assigned test are given cannot be cut.

# around campus

## December's Children

The December's Children, a campus folk singing group, is rapidly gaining prestige on various high school and college campuses.

A spokesman for the group commented, "The December's Children, formerly the 'Kaywoodies', are increasingly being engaged in out-of-town performances. Already we have appeared in a number of high schools in North Carolina and have had one college engagement at Emory & Henry in Virginia."

Members of the group include Bucky Wright, Fields Young, Sheila Stephenson, Gary Sturgis, Joe Bingham, Brick Tilley, Tim Ellmore, Ilene Sink, and Andy Biro. They have been working together since Christmas of 1965. Mike Yelton serves as manager.

The group stated that, "In all the performances we have given we have been representatives of the school rather than acting as an individual group."

## Class Elections

Congratulations to newly elected class officers! Ruff Wheelless barely edged out Norman Eller by a four-vote margin for president of the senior class. Eller will become vice-president since no candidate ran for that office. This was approved by the rising senior class. The office of secretary was won by Katy Cathey with 79 votes against 66 captured by Sandra Duck. Cheryl Moon was unopposed for treasurer. Five candidates for five senior senate seats all collected between 132 and 137 votes. The senators are John Carpenter, Janis Elam, Catherine Martin, Charles Miracle, and Joel Reed.

Three offices for the junior class were unopposed: David Smith, president, 141; Martha Bruce, secretary, 139; and treas-

urer, David Bunn, 137. The office of vice-president was won by Jean Dunn with a 10-vote lead over Diane Cowan. For junior senator, Allen Lane, Dannie Lunsford, and Terry Parker received 100, 107, and 126 votes respectively. Michael Kirby was defeated with a vote of 66.

Elected president of the sophomore class was David Brookshire with 201 votes. Bobbie Miller (96) easily won a victory over her two opponents Marv Arrington (68) and Thomas Mathias (44). Mary Beth Foster outdistanced her opponent, Catherine Serota, by an almost two-to-one ratio for the office of secretary. Judy Hirschberg, with 161 votes, made an impressive vote ratio of almost four-to-one over David Keefer for treasurer. Senators elected were Mary Belle Lawton (192), Mike Mills (148), and Donna Williams (156). Defeated for the senate was Walter Eugene Wilkins with 82 votes.

## Barbershop Entertainment

The Mars Hill Civitan Club will present the Asheville Barbershop Quartet and Chorus in addition to the Mars Hill College

Quartet at Moore Auditorium, April at 8 p.m. The proceeds will go to the recreation fund for the Mars Hill community. Special admission prices for the students are 50c.

## Movement Successful

The Methodist Student Movement retreat held 7-9 April at the home of Miss Betty Monsinger near Burnsville was so successful that another is being planned for next year. Dr. Robert G. Tuttle of First Methodist in Hickory, the special speaker, was especially well received.


The annual MSM banquet will be held on 29 April at the Mars Hill Community Center. Active members of MSM will be presented service awards for their contributions to the group.

## Get Well Soon

Get well cards to Mrs. Serota, biology instructor who recently suffered a broken pelvis, and Tom Smith, involved in an automobile accident in Weaverville.

## Welcome Back

We welcome Dr. Raymond Nelson, professor in classics, back to campus after an operation in Knoxville, Tenn.




# hilltop

the Mars Hill College

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