

Minutes of Faculty Meeting  
Held May 14, 1954

Present: Mr. Hancock, Miss Montgomery, Miss Dunne, Miss Gillis.

The Director asked for a discussion about thesis with particular attention given to the problems involved and possible remedies.

From the discussion the problems are as follows:

1. Students going into second year are by and large not ready to begin their thesis in the first term of second year. It was felt that in this term students are not emotionally prepared and have not been in the field long enough to begin their thesis.
2. Mr. Hancock was concerned about the quality of thesis which is being produced. It was felt that the content and method of handling was not adequate for a post-graduate thesis. Ability to communicate as social workers seemed to be lacking. It was also agreed that the use of the English language was poor.
3. It was felt that the time available for writing the thesis may not be enough, yet it was agreed that this time was not always used constructively by the students.
4. The fourth problem involved discussion about the type of thesis; whether the thesis required should be a more statistical rather than process approach.

In considering solutions to these problems, attention was first given to the possibility of abandoning the thesis requirement. It was felt that a great deal of learning could be lost for the student if there were no thesis requirement. We then considered that if the thesis requirement was retained, how could the situation be further remedied. It was recognized that one of the problems in relation to the time limit came as a result of the School having to meet the University convocation dates. It was suggested that the second year students concentrate their time on thesis in May and June, completing their thesis in time for a summer convocation or for convocation the following spring.

It was suggested that if the thesis requirement is retained that we consider the group project method.

It was further suggested that the formal thesis requirement be dropped. In its place there would be a research program during the whole year and along with this a research project or report which would be completed at the end of the year and would remain in the School. It was noted that the curriculum policy statement of the Council on Social Work Education does not require a thesis. It was felt that the term "thesis" should be eliminated and the requirement be called a "project" or "report".

It was felt that a project or report is necessary for integrating and evaluating for the student in ending his learning experience at the School.

June 2/54

*J. Gillis*  
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