

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF ENGINEERING EDUCATION
NINTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOUTHEASTERN SECTION
NORTH CAROLINA STATE AND DUKE UNIVERSITY
MAY FIRST AND SECOND 1942.

The ninth annual meeting of the Southeastern Section of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education was held in Raleigh and Durham North Carolina on May first and second 1942. North Carolina State College and Duke University were joint hosts.

The first session of the meeting was called to order by the chairman Dean N. W. Daugherty at 10:00 A.M. May first at North Carolina State College.

The Section was given a most cordial welcome to North Carolina State College by Col. J. W. Harrelson, Dean of Administration. In his address Col. Harrelson pointed out the importance of engineering education in the present war effort.

The Section was honored by having Prof. Alfred H. White, President of the Society, present for the first day of the meeting. Prof. White complemented the section on the number of institutions present and on the subjects chosen for discussion.

The chairman first appointed the following committees:

Committee on Nominations:

Dean S. B. Earle, Clemson College, S.C. Chairman.
Dean W. S. Rodman, University of Virginia.
Dean Blake R. Van Leer, North Carolina State College.

Committee on Resolutions:

Prof. R. A. Marr, Virginia Military Institute. Chairman.
Prof. Thomas M. Low, Alabama Polytechnic Institute.
Prof. Ray L. Sweigert, Georgia School of Technology

Dean Norris of Virginia Military Institute presented the following telegram for the approval of the Section.

Honorable Paul V. McNutt, Chairman,
War Manpower Commission,
Washington, D.C.

Representatives of twenty-two engineering colleges of the Southeastern States meeting to discuss war problems desire to express grave concern over recent action of War Department in ordering to immediate or early action many engineering teachers who are also reserve officers. These colleges have already gone to limit in releasing reserve officers. Further inroads now ordered will cripple training of engineers for war industries, also technical training of reserve officers graduated by thousands each year as well as the engineering defense training program. Respectfully suggest War Manpower Commission defer all such military orders pending investigation of plight of engineering schools and formulation by your commission, of such policies as will best serve the war industries and armed forces. We have assumed that training program feeding hundreds of engineering graduates into the armed forces and war industries was more important to ultimate victory than immediate military service of the reserve

officers who are now teaching in engineering colleges.

Signed, N. W. Dougherty, Chairman,
Southeastern Section of the Society
for the Promotion of Engineering
Education.

The telegram was approved by the section and the secretary instructed to see that it went forward.

The subject for discussion, "The Accelerated Engineering Program" was introduced by Prof. W. A. Coolidge of Vanderbilt University with an address on the subject, "The Advantages to industry of the Accelerated Program". Prof. Coolidge said that the responses to a questionnaire sent to fifty industries showed that industry was definitely in favor of the Accelerated Program. He closed with the statement that, "We may find that shortage of engineers will be the most critical bottle-neck of the whole war".

The subject, "Problems Involved in the Accelerated Program" was well expressed in an address by Dean W. S. Rodman of the University of Virginia. Dean Rodman pointed out that in spite of the fact that over eighty percent of the engineering schools were now in favor of the Accelerated Program that there were some dangers in the idea. The principle problems were, he thought, (1) How shall we accelerate. (2) Shall acceleration be compulsory or shall it be optional. (3) The problem of coordinating with the liberal arts divisions.

Dean L. L. Patterson spoke on "Administrative and Scheduling Problems". Dean Patterson spoke from his experiences in formulating plans for accelerating the program at Mississippi State College. He said that one of the greatest problems was to avoid repeat courses for those who did not wish to take the accelerated program. For this reason he thought it best that the program be made compulsory for all. He believed that there were no problems that were unmountable in the administration and scheduling an accelerated program.

The subject was discussed by, Dean E. B. Norris of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Dean S. B. Earle, of Clemson College and H. Gale Haynes of The Citadel. Some points brought out in the discussion were (1) There is danger in lowering standards (2) There is danger in turning engineers into technologists. (3) In spite of the dangers the students are in favor of it. (4) It would not be necessary to eliminate courses if wasted time were eliminated. (5) The increased cost would be heavy, especially on the smaller colleges. (6) The product of the accelerated program, altho good for war would not be a good citizen after the war.

After the discussion several members explained plans for conducting the accelerated program at their institutions.

The section was the guest of the North Carolina State Section of S.F.E.E. for a delightful luncheon at the Sir Walter Hotel. Prof. Alfred H. White, President of the Society was the speaker for this occasion. He spoke on what the engineers had done in the past and on what they would be called upon to do in the future.

After lunch the members were conducted on a tour of the city and college laboratories. At the end of the tour all met again at an informal and delightful tea given by the N.C. State College Section.

The second session of the meeting was called to order by the chairman, Dean N. W. Dougherty, at Duke University on May second at 9:30 A. M.

The section was welcomed to Duke University by President R. I. Flowers

The first subject for this session was, " The Impact of the Defense Training Program on the Regular Program".

Prof. E. W. Ruggles of North Carolina State College presented the first paper on the subject, " The Educational Value of the Pre-Service Defense Courses". Prof. Ruggles based his remarks on the work as done at N. C. State College. His conclusion was that the E. S. M. D. T. Courses were of great value in several ways. (1) The seriousness of purpose of the defense students should be of moral value to the institutions and (2) These courses make available much additional equipment and third, many students who have had a little training will come back later for more.

Dean Weil, University of Florida, spoke on the "Educational Value of the In-service courses". He thought that the value of the in service courses was that it brought the colleges into closer contact with professional engineers and industry. This, he believed, would be a lasting influence.

The subject was discussed by Prof. D. V. Terrell of the University of Kentucky, Dr. Harold W. Taylor of the University of Alabama, Prof. R. I. Sumwalt of the University of S. C., Dean G. J. Davis of the University of Alabama., Dean J. E. Hannum of Alabama Polytechnic Institute and Dean Blake R. Van Leer of N. C. State College.

The second subject, " The Cooperative Program as a Method of Defense Training," was introduced by Prof. J. E. McDaniel of Georgia School of Technology. He said that the cooperative program would be of great help in that those men taking such courses would at the same time be assisting directly with the war effort. He felt, however, that the program was not for all colleges nor suitable for all students.

Dean J. E. Hannum, of Alabama Polytechnic Institute brought out the fact that if the 110,000 students now in our institutions were all enrolled in the cooperative program they would be able to fill 55,000 jobs in industry while attending college. He believed the cooperative plan an excellent one for training engineers for the war effort.

The subject was discussed by Dean J. H. Williamson of the University of Tenn., Dean F. I. Wilkinson of the University of Louisville and Prof. Percy Neal of Mississippi State College. Points of interest brought out in the discussion were, one, Industry is 100% in favor of expanding the program, two, For education to exist during this period it must aid in defense training, three, students can better be placed after a cooperative course as industry knows their capabilities.

A short business meeting followed this discussion.

Dean Van Leer made the motion that the Southeastern Section approve the formation of the National Capitol Section in Washington, D. C. but that Virginia be allowed to remain in the Southeastern Section. The motion was seconded and passed by the Section.