

ST. OLAF COLLEGE

NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

DEPARTMENT OF
CHEMISTRY

December 20, 1963

Professor Wilmer Stratton
Department of Chemistry
Earlham College
Richmond, Indiana

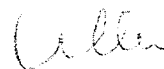
Dear Dr. Stratton:

Since I do not know whether the secretary of our discussion group at the Wabash meeting of MACTLAC ever sent you a report, I thought I had better send you a note to "cover" for the group just in case. The late arrival of my train fouled things a little but Kurt Kaufmann had things running smoothly when I got there.

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Our group was concerned with the effect of calendar changes on the chemistry program. Dr. Kaufman described the unique Kalamazoo plan in which students follow a staggered sequence of eleven-week quarters which includes eleven terms on campus, two in study abroad, and two vacation quarters in a year-round program. Offsetting the admitted gain in reducing student provincialism, Dr. Kaufmann observed the chief drawbacks to be a) reduced time available for laboratory. b) one quarter too short for senior thesis, and c) difficulty in recruiting student assistants and in promoting learning through inter-class associations. Dr. J. Finholt of Carleton described the 3-3 program in which students take three courses in each ten-week term. He reported considerable flexibility in arranging student programs but noted a shortage of laboratory time. Speaking on the 4-1-4 plan to go into effect at St. Olaf, Dr. Hanson mentioned that chemistry majors' programs get "tighter" under a reduced course load but that the four-week Interim of one course provided challenging opportunities for project work and allowed total concentration on Qualitative Organic Analysis in the junior year. ~~Most in the group were not on a new calendar and were there to gain information.~~ In general the newer programs include fewer courses in the total program, hence, decrease flexibility in choice of courses but ~~may increase~~ flexibility in schedule arrangement. Many found greater difficulty under calendar change to meet A.C.S. standards in certain details, but no one reported serious trouble.

Hope this will meet your needs. Best wishes for a happy Christmas season.

Sincerely,



Allen L. Hanson