

BK: My name is Bob Kulisheck I am head of the Political Science department at Northern Michigan University. Now do you want to ask me the questions or?

INT: No you just ?????

Niel
Hoffman
Brieten
Rhodney
Frank

BK: I came to Northern Michigan University in 1969 directly out of Graduate School from the University of Iowa and I arrived in the department in the fall of 1969, I had been teaching classes, introduction to political science classes and a research/methodology class. At that time the department was made up of a number of people that have been here for several years, the department head at that time was ??? Georgovich? and at that time Dr. ?Drifridge? was here, we also had Professor ?Berry? and Professor Mackintosh and another instructor Mrs. Hope Trap was on the staff at that time. The year I arrived Dr John Ashby also arrived in the department. Two other people were hired that year, Ben ??? and Ben was here for a year and left and then another younger professor was here whose name originally at that moment, Doug Weber ~~was his name~~. I think it might be best if you ask me some questions here.

INT: What was the structure of the department as far as classes taught ????

BK: Ok the department was an independent department in 1969 and had been for several years, it had originally had been part of the history department and then it split apart in the 1960s creating two independent departments. The department was basically the same structure it is now.

INT: What about the faculty members ??????

BK: I think the faculty is competent and I think the nature of the specialization has changed over the years. When I first came in the real emphasis in most of our students was in education, now more people are going into law and public administration. So there has been a shift in the areas of specialization more so than the quality of the professors.

INT: What about the graduate program?

BK: The graduate program started in the early 1970s. I have been director of the graduate program since 1977, during that time it increased from approximately 20 students to a high point ~~or~~ approximately 120 students. The high point of the program took place when we were offering courses both at KI Sawyer Air Force Base and in Escanaba and we also had 22 courses ~~being~~ offered on Northern's campus. Since closure of KI Sawyer Air Force our enrollments are now in the vicinity of 70 to 80 students per semester at the graduate level.

INT: Do you expect that to keep growing?

INT: I see ????

BK: All the professors on the program have PhD.'s with the exception of ~~Crystal West~~ who is in the process of finishing her dissertation, should have her doctorate awarded sometime within the next few months.

INT: What about ??? on a national scale and how does it compare to other schools?

BK: I think you have to compare us to regional universities and I think we compare very favorably that way both in terms of size of program, diversity of specialties offered, quality of teaching, and we are also becoming more actively involved in research these days. Each of our professors have designated research projects and during the past year we have gained use of student research assistants to work with the professors and these paid positions have proved very useful to the students as well as to the professors in helping them advance their research interests.

INT: What would you consider to be your best accomplishment as department head?

BK: I think as department head, in addition to being department head I am director of graduate programs and public administration. And I think have a good deal of impact on the development of our graduate programs and at the undergraduate level I think I have had a hand in recruiting some very competent professors who are doing some very innovative things in terms of undergraduate education.

INT: What do you look for in professors ??? applications?

BK: The first priorities are always teaching, we want to make sure that the people that we bring in will be good teachers and we also want to find people who have the potential for interest in research. This however is not a primary concern, we want to make sure that the major emphasis is on teaching then in addition to that they should be willing to engage in research and service activities, which is another important part of the job.

INT: Are there any parts of the program that you think are weak right now, that you would like to see get stronger?

BK: I think that what we, our major concern right now in the department is really at somewhat of a crossroads, is that we attain adequate staff in order to further our undergraduate and graduate programs. We are one of the departments I think that have tremendous potential for growth, especially serving the professionals in the health care field in the Upper Peninsula. To do that we have to make sure we have adequate staff, one of our positions right now, a very key position, filled by an individual who is instrumental in developing this health care tract, is a non-tenure tract position, and we have to somehow

BK: right now we have the potential of growth in our program and we are working on the possibility of developing a health care concentration which is very important because Marquette has become a regional medical facility, the Marquette General Hospital has become the largest employee in the area and there are a number of other hospitals and medically related programs. We anticipate if we can get the health care concentration on ~~lane~~ ^{line} we will more than make up for any enrollment decline that we experienced with the lose of KI Sawyer and the discontinuation of ~~our~~ defense administration concentration in our program.

INT: What about the ??? in Northern , ?????? dropped in the year or so?

BK: I think we have looked at enrollment pretty much in regards with political science and a significant number of students that have left or the positions that haven't been filled by other students relate to the closure of KI Sawyer because so many of our graduate students were Air Force officers, so that is a good deal of it and the other enrollment declines as applied to the department are comparable to those experienced by other colleges with in the university.

INT: How many presidents have you ?????

BK: Let's see when I came here President Jamrich was here and then President Appleberry and now President Vandament.

INT: What has it been like under each one of the presidents as far as the ???

BK: Quite frankly the influence of the change of presidents at the department level has really been quite minimal that the departments have really been able to carry on their function independent of which president happened to be here to the extent that a president is successful or not successful in getting adequate appropriations for the entire university certainly had an impact on our ability to deliver programs but none of the presidents that I worked with have attempted to have a direct influence on changing the way in which the department was functioning.

INT: ??????

BK: We had budget problems most every year since I got here, we did lose a position in the middle of 1970s that we did not regain.

INT: And that was on a position??

BK: This was on a position of someone who is on a non-tenure tract position.

convert that to a tenure tract position and we are in the process of trying to do this in conversation with the dean and vice-president.

INT: How has the scope of the ??? science changed as far as teaching and ????? I mean obviously it changes a little over the last

BK: I think the major change in the teaching is that we are having less emphasis on K-12 education and more emphasis on preparing people for roles in the area of public administration and law, so that has been a real change. I think also just the content of our course has changed significantly because of the change in the international environment with the collapse of communism and the end of the cold war and the ethnic and regional conflicts that we are experiencing now we have to have a very different approach to our teaching and emphasize different subject matter. This is certainly true in the areas that I teach in with regards to the American Foreign Policy and my course on the former Soviet Union, it has changed it's name from the Soviet Union to the former Soviet Union.

INT: Was there a big emphasis on communist systems during the cold war?

BK: The study of communist systems was always something that was part of our introduction to political science courses, our comparative government courses, our foreign policy courses so all of these things had to be changed and brought up to date with the collapse of communism.

INT: Are there any particular students that stand out in your mind through out the years?

BK: A number of students, I will mention a couple of them to you as we are talking here, Mark Reogie was a student of ours about ten years ago and he was from Menominee and he did well in his political science program here, did an internship in Washington DC, spent several years as Chief of Staff to Governor Davis and while doing that received his degree in law and now he is a practicing attorney in Washington DC. I think this is an example of Upper Peninsula person going through Northern, using the opportunities that we have up here in order to get work experience and now in a very important position. Another student that I think is typical of many of the students that we have come through our program is Jennifer ????, she was a homemaker who came back through our program in her early 30s, received her training here and now she is chief lobbyist for ?Brown? County in the state of Wisconsin. So I think here we have an example of a student who has come back to school after being out for a period of time, received training in political science and public administration and now is applying this in the public sector in Wisconsin. I think these two types of students illustrate the work that we have done with people over the past several years.

Reogie
congressman
Wisconsin
Grounds

INT: What do you see, where do you see ???????? as far as what you want to do now?

BK: Well I think we want to continue to develop our pre law program. I think we want to make sure that we continue to serve the general liberal studies program. I think that in just a few years we are going to see a reemphasis on teacher education as more and more people retire there is going to be a need for more and more K-12 social studies teachers and that will reflect in a greater number of our students going into that particular discipline. And I already talked about our graduate program, I think we can do more in your health care administration and we also have a graduate program that is sufficiently generic that we can work in the non-profit sector and we can even provide some people training for private corporations, and I think there is a potential for growth there as well.

INT: How much is the department involved with things outside of the university?

BK: We are involved in a number of different activities ~~in terms of your phisic activities~~, I had been mayor of Marquette for a period of time, was on the Marquette City Commission. David Carlson has been chair of the Board of Light and Power in the City of Marquette, Dr. Griffer has served on the Parks and Recreation advisory board, Dr. Ashby works with the County Social Service Department and has chaired that organization, Dr. Day and Dr. Nelson have engaged in a number of research projects, public opinion surveys that have been used by government agencies, so part of our commitment is service and we do reach out beyond the department in order to try to make these contributions.

INT: That is about all I have for you, ^{at this} time.

BK: I think I covered most of it.