

On the Duties of the Lectors (Chapter 9)

To this point, we note that certain very necessary members are lacking from this body; which just like their senses, all students will be able to use in order to follow every honest discipline, and put to flight all illiberal thought, Therefore, we wish and establish, as described previously in the chapter above, about the election of the President, etc., that the principal Lector, Sublectors, and examiners also be elected according to the formula. No one except someone who has been a Fellow may choose any daily reading for students; whom we also wish to be chosen by the Master and Seniors for this matter. For thus we wish the Fellows to be kept busy in order that they spend one year reading the lectures in the Hall. Then, if it seems best to the Master and the Seniors, let them be promoted to the role of Sublector. And then, if it is pleasing also to the Master and the Seniors, let the examiners be chosen then from those let a principal lecturer be appointed. For we wish no one to be appointed a public Lector unless they have first been an examiner, and no one be appointed an examiner unless they were a Sublector before, and no one a Sublector unless they have been a Lector in someone's lecture hall for a year; and through these, like steps to some fruits of education, we wish that he enter into the duties of the college also. No one of those who are chosen will refuse those offices, convicted by the refusal on the penalty of his dereliction of duty by his refusal, but they will be held to follow out these things diligently as long as the Master and the greater part of the aforesaid Seniors thus consider it necessary. And if it will seem necessary to the Master and the Seniors that there be more than three Sublectors, according to their opinion, let there be more appointed. In each quarter of the year, following the days prescribed through the statutes of the university, let them begin to read. During their long vacation, since at that time the university's term ceases, let them begin to read on the first Monday after the commencement ceremonies which are called the solemn inceptions, but let them stop on Friday before the festival of the birth of the Blessed Mary. On any day that is not a holiday, once the bell has been rung by the principal lecturer, after the prayers and the common passage having been explained, if there was one, which at the sixth hour, we wish everyone to stop, continually let all students leave the chapel and go into the common hall to hear a reading in that same place. Whereupon, let the principal Lector and Sublectors pay careful attention to hearing the recitations of the students and the baccalaureate Fellows and to examining the same and also to teaching them for the space of an hour and a half or more, and let them do this in both logic and philosophy.

We wish this to be the curriculum of young men to be instructed in the hall: that after they have been admitted into the college, they spend up to six or seven months in learning the elements of geometry and arithmetic. For the rest of the first year, let them undertake some extended study in dialectics. At this time, let them glance over its [i.e., the university's] general curriculum, at least let all of them experience Aristotle, and that Greek [Plato], and let them study the *Organum* of Aristotle, which is called *Logic*, and let them engage with the *Physics*. However, we wish, at some point, that some philosopher or dialectician besides Aristotle be brought into the hall to be read in public; unless by chance a public Lector or those who are going to be masters of arts are willing to explicate the *Timaeus* of Plato or some select dialogue of his. Nevertheless, let the Lector and others read such that they do not dwell on the Greek the way grammarians do for that pertains rather to the Lector of the Greek language, but that they explain the material itself

which makes up its content; let them compare the matter to the matter, the passage to the passage, the author to the author. In learning Aristotle's logic, let them omit nothing. Let them focus on certain other authors more diligently, let them pass over certain ones more quickly, but nevertheless, let them learn them all, and thus let them diligently and maturely understand such that in the second year they read through the entirety of the logic in the hall. Let them spend the remaining time, before they are baccalaureates, on the *Physics* which were published by Aristotle about the soul, the understanding of which seems to be the sustenance¹ of all philosophy. However, we leave it to the judgment of the master and of the majority of the Seniors to determine which aspect of these faculties [of the readings] each one of the aforementioned Lectors will hear, examine, and expound upon and at what hour such that they observe that which they have determined to be more conducive to a reading. And those things indeed which we wrote before, we wish the Lectors to do on any non-holiday unless, by chance, there will seem to the Master (or in his absence the President and First Lector) to be a necessary remission from the custom of the University, at the request of another college or hospice or some nobleman, or for the sake of giving the young men a break. Likewise, there will be present both a principal Lector and Sublectors for all of exercises of the baccalaureates and students from the beginning all the way until the end, unless they have a legitimate reason for their absence, approved by the Master or, in his absence, the Vicegerent, in which circumstance we wish that those watching substitute some pious and learned people in his place who would energetically expose the negligence of the students. We wish every single person (who is not justly prohibited from doing so according to the judgment of the Master, or in his absence, the President) to be present at all the lectures, both the ones in the house and in public, which, by the judgment of the Master and of the Seniors, pertain to the students and the baccalaureates. And let every Lector and Examiner diligently train the students in their classes, let them punish delinquent students, let them note those who are not proficient, let them report to the Seniors about the diligence and progress and also the ignorance of the non-proficient students annually. And we wish the Principal Lector to visit the lower classes and to test how each class is progressing and whether the Sublector or Lector assigned to the class has diligently carried out his duty and responsibility. But as often as any of the Lectors or Sublectors does not do his duty or does it negligently, let him be fined four pennies by the Principal Lector. If the Principal Lector fails in his duty in any capacity, as often as he is delinquent, let him be fined eight pennies that often by the Master or, in his absence, the President; unless a reason approved through this one or that one has prevented him from doing his duty. We wish these fines that have been imposed on anyone, either by the Master or the President, here or elsewhere, to be directed toward the benefit of the college. And besides, we order and establish that all the Fellows, students, the Pensioners, and the others who stay in the college to pay attention to Hebrew and Greek literature and read individual works in its own language. And let them² be divided in the way the Master and the greater part of the Seniors deem suitable, and let it be done without any exception. We ordain that according to the process of elections, which we will explain below, let four of the Fellows who will read the arts of mathematics; of which, one will teach arithmetic, another geometry, the third perspective, and the fourth any treatise about the globe or the

¹ *Penus*, according to

<https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=hw8BAAAAYAAJ&pg=GBS.PA106&hl=en>

² i.e., Students

heavens. They will begin these lectures annually on the next Monday after the appointment of the Masters and will continue every day that is not a holiday, each by their own course, so that no day is left out at all nor do two lectures happen at the same time on one day. Thus we wish this to be observed from that Monday mentioned above until Michaelmas (except for as long as that time which spans from the festival of the nativity of the blessed Virgin until the end of the festival of the exaltation of the Holy Cross). At these lectures, let there be present all the baccalaureates, both Fellows and students, under penalty which will be imposed by the Master, or in his absence, the Vicegerent, on individuals who are delinquent.