

Faculty Senate Minutes **November 11 1997**

Senators Present: L. Bush E. Crane D. Defino J. DeRidder N. Drewer G. Ference
(Vice President) J. Kalb (Secretary) K. Fox M. Garner J. Jenne C. Long S. Muller D.
Parker (President) K. Shannon C. Thomas D. Whaley.

A quorum being present the meeting was called to order by Senate President Parker at 3:33 p.m.

1 The minutes of the October 14 1997 meeting were approved.

2 Announcements from President Parker:

- A. Thanks to Dr. Creighton the salary chart has been "fixed" and only the raises for promotions are in error. Prior to computing next year's salaries the correct amounts will be included in the base salaries of those promoted this year.
Parker has entered and processed the salary data for faculty and administrators and will distribute this to the Senators and others who have requested reports as soon as possible.
Parker wondered if the Senate should create an ad-hoc committee to review Faculty Compensation and address questions and issues such as 1) Is the present chart valid? 2) Should SSU only count "years of meritorious service in rank" instead of "years in rank" when using the chart? 3) Should chairs be compensated differently than the current practice? and 4) Should full-time contractual faculty have their own chart of minimum salaries or should they be put onto the "regular" chart?
- B. Next week's meeting will be an open hearing on the recommendations of the Alcohol Task Force although the recommendations concern "a community of conversation" rather than alcohol abuse.
- C. In one of the recent meetings with Regents President Merwin expressed his view that community service is an important part of promotions applications. We have three more regent visits to go. Perhaps we should invite the Chancellor to visit with us in the same sort of fashion.

3 Additional announcements from Senators:

- A. Vice President Ference identified the Faculty representatives on the Bookstore Advisory Committee were Amy Meekins and John Wolinski from Education and George Gering and Jim McCallops from History/Liberal Arts. No nominees were received from the other two schools.

- B. Ference also mentioned some issues currently under discussion on the Library Committee: 1) The Committee is currently reviewing and considering possible changes in the Library's book return policy; 2) In considering the Alcohol Task Force's recommendation for expanding Library hours the Committee discovered that Blackwell is open for more hours than any other USM library; and 3) In discussing the Library snack bar (similarly recommended by the Alcohol Task Force the discussion has centered on perceived problems of location security possible vermin infestation and equipment; all of these matters the Committee believes need to be looked at very carefully before a Snack Bar is established.

Dr. Lackie responded: The University is considering the following possible locations: 1) the former computer lab in the basement but that does raise the issue of safety and security; 2) the terrace area (with a smoked glass enclosure) but this would be very expensive; 3) the northwest corner of the library (the current newspaper area and parallel to the parking lot; and 4) the current microfilm area. Lackie suggests that the northwest corner seems the best bet. The vermin and infestation problem is negligible and controllable. The northwest corner makes the idea of a 24 hour study lounge possible; while the library would be securely locked at closing the lounge could remain open and accessible from the Blackwell parking lot. Responding to the suggestion that the snack bar would be a burger/fries/fastfood emporium Lackie said that this was not so. He indicated that during meal times the snack bar would offer items similar to the meal carts (but not as with the more elaborate setup as Planet Holloway). Other than mealtimes there would be vending machine snacks only.

- C. Don Whaley indicated that the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee in light of the Ad hoc committee reviewing procedures to adjudicate disputes on campus is looking at and reviewing their charge.

4 Announcements from Provost Creighton:

- A. The Academic Affairs Advisory Committee (AAAC) has approved the bachelors degree program in Early Childhood and the masters degree program in Rural History.
There have been some welcome changes in the process for program approval: 1) Only a letter of intent not a prospectus is now required and 2) MHEC now receives proposals all year long rather than only in January and July as was previously the case.
- B. There will be another open forum on November 25 at 3:30 p.m. in DH149 to discuss the Strategic Long Range Plan.
- C. The Provost encouraged those senior faculty who are invited to meet with President Merwin to do so.

5 Old Business

- A. The Promotions Process: Rich McKenzie Chair of the University Promotions Committee (UPC) informed the Senate that the UPC 1) asked the Faculty for feedback on the promotions process last year and the responses indicated dissatisfaction with the current process; 2) looked at those responses to arrive at some possible changes in the process 3 is currently fleshing out the pros and cons on three potential models; and 4) intends to inform and poll the faculty for additional input but is unsure how the Senate wishes the UPC to handle this.

Webster Kathleen Shannon suggested that UPC meeting minutes and agenda issues should be posted on the Senate website. John Kalb (Senate rep on the UPC) responded that the minutes from the first three UPC meetings are "on their way" to her.

Dr. Kenneth Smith who has been working on a Perdue School Promotions and Tenure Committee proposal indicated 1) that this is modeled on the Towson promotions and tenure process 2 that this would make for a more homogeneous process 3 that the goal is for the UPC to become a Promotions and Tenure Committee which would have a mostly procedural role.

Subsequent discussion concerned such issues and problems as 1) tenure seen as primarily (and historically) a department not a school or university decision 2 school committees too far removed from the candidate for a tenure decision 3 departments mentor their candidates may have their decisions overruled by a school committee and 4) the difficulties of having different standards in different schools additional hurdles and hazards for candidates more bureaucracy etc.

McKenzie will keep the Senate informed about the UPC's deliberations.

- B. Distance Education Policy. In a lengthy discussion of President Merwin's postponement of action on the recommendations of the University Forum Position Statement on Distance Education approved by the Forum last year among the concerns addressed were 1) the Senate needs to endorse the Position Statement and actively engage the President and Administration in dialogue on these issues; 2) the current "no policy" is in effect an ad hoc unapproved and undiscussed unofficial policy; and 3) the Senate faces two issues as a result of the President's decision: a) support of the substance of the policy itself and b) the issue of shared governance. Provost Creighton suggested that the Senate and the President are not that far apart on this issue and that flexibility in the position statement (e.g. maintaining the student/teacher ratio rather than the narrower definition of class size) would help smooth over the differences. The Provost also suggested that Senators familiarize themselves with the Chancellor's vision of "Boundless Education" in order to understand the situation which the President may find himself in on this issue.

Motion Carried: The Senate will send a letter to President Merwin endorsing the Position Statement on Distance Education including Michael O'Loughlin's remarks to the Forum President articulated in his response to Merwin's memo of July 9 1997 and asking that if he has reservations and/or recommendations

with the approved policy to meet with the Senate at the earliest mutual convenience for the purposes of arriving at some consensus and a suitable solution to the problems.

6 New Business:

- A. International Education Forum Bylaw Proposal (which was offered for a first reading at the November 4 Forum meeting and which Parker and others suggested would usurp the role of the University Curriculum Committee [UCC] in the approval of travel courses). Gerald St. Martin Chair of the UCC informed the Senate that the UCC had discussed the proposal at its last meeting still wants to see new courses for approval is concerned about a proliferation of committees dealing with curricular issues and yet does not have a problem with subsequently offered travel courses not coming to the UCC for approval. The Fulton School Curriculum Committee however has indicated that it still wants to see all travel courses (at least for now) but has scheduled a December 11 meeting with faculty who teach repeat travel courses to discuss this issue further. The UCC will keep the Senate apprized and the Senate will forego further deliberation on this issue.

7 Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Upcoming meetings: Open meeting on Ad Hoc Committee on Alcohol Abuse recommendations for November 18; regularly scheduled meeting on December 9 1997
Submitted by John Kalb Senate secretary

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