

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
TUESDAY, November 17 1998
Cashion 303, 3:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Baird, Beckner, Bowery, Carini, Chinn, Counts, E. Davis, Dunn, Farris, Genrich, Christine Getz (for Buddo) Gilchrest, Hillman, Jensen, K. Johnson, P. Johnson, Johnston, Longfellow, Losey, McGee, Stone, Supplee, Tipton, Weaver, Wilson, Yelderman, Young

Absent With Notification: Adams, Beck

Absent: Abbott-Kirk, Conyers, C. Davis

I. Invocation and Welcome

The meeting was delayed slightly because of technical difficulties with the link to the School of Nursing; the meeting began at 3:40 without the link. Don Farris gave the invocation.

II. Agenda

Item V.B. was moved to Item III. Discussion of the Calendar rescheduling and Faculty Designations were added.

III. Enrollment Management Workshop with Faculty (E. Davis)

The University Planning Council had asked that the Senate gather faculty input regarding questions of Enrollment Management. The Senate was asked to report by Feb. 8, 1999, through Kevin Barge (Communications), acting facilitator for the UPC. Barge's schedule will not allow for a meeting before the end of the Fall semester. After discussion about the nature and format of these discussions, the Senate agreed to hold a special meeting (apart from the regularly scheduled meeting) ASAP in the Spring semester, with specific dates and times to be arranged via e-mail. Though this will be a called meeting of the Senate, all faculty will be encouraged to attend and participate, and Senators were asked to contact their designated constituency. In addition, the Senate discussed the possibility of soliciting written responses from faculty, using the (approx.) 6-8 items which previously had been raised by the Senate and Committee on Enrollment Management. McGee also agreed to contact the Lariat reporter assigned to the Senate and raise the possibility of a story on this topic.

E. Davis then reported on the most recent meeting of the Committee on Enrollment Management. She reported that on November 7, 1998, criteria for early admission to the University has been lowered to admit those who had SAT/ACT scores of 1000/21 and were in the top 50% of their high school class. These actions were taken because such students would ultimately be admitted anyway, and they hoped that early admission

might attract some students who (with later admission) may have enrolled elsewhere. As of Nov. 7, 887 students had been admitted (slightly more than 50% of those who had applied) and 238 students had sent deposits. Finally, the proportion of students admitted through the Challenge Program will stay at approximately 10% in the near future, with the long-range possibility of lowering this percentage in subsequent years.

IV. Report on Student Evaluations of Faculty and Courses (McGee)

McGee reported that the Provost had released the report on student evaluations of faculty. The Faculty Development Committee, chaired by Don Parker (Geology), completed their report in April, 1998. The key points made by the Committee were as follows:

- Currently, the university has no clear "Statement of Purpose" regarding faculty evaluations
- Student evaluations have developed into the measure of teaching effectiveness, rather than as one component.
- Evaluations should include peer evaluation
- Evaluations should be both unbiased and appropriate for the task.

McGee will contact Parker about submitting this report to the Senate, so that it may be entered into the minutes.

The link to the School of Nursing was restored at 4:10.

V. Committee Reports

A. Faculty Committee on Academic Freedom, Responsibility, and Environment (Bob Baird).

Jay Losey spoke on behalf of the Promotion Policy Task Force. The committee is waiting to hear from M. Busch (Chemistry) and B. Tobin (Law School), granting permission for the task force to release their internal promotion policies as examples. The subcommittee will report to AFRE, and they will then report to the full Senate.

B. Faculty Committee on Physical Facilities (Joe Yelderman)

Yelderman addressed the following issues:

- Architectural designs for the Tennis and Baseball facilities have been approved;
- The re-design of Strecker Museum (Stage 1) was approved;
- Initial approval was given for the new science building, and the University is now pursuing design and planning. Science faculty will be consulted in this process;
- The plans for future use of the existing Law School facilities were discussed;
- No decisions have yet been made regarding which departments will occupy the new science building;

C. Faculty Committee on Student Life and Services (Gary Carini). No Report.

D. Athletic Council (Mark Dunn)

Kevin Wieberg has been named the new commissioner of the Big 12. The Governance

and Rules Committee is in the process of conducting an audit of the booster clubs. The Academic Integrity Committee reported that study halls are filled, and that 16 of 17 sports have higher GPAs than the previous year.

E. Staff Council Liaison (Nancy Chinn)

Faculty was encouraged to support "Santa's Workshop" and the "Santa Shirt" projects.

VI. Miscellaneous

A. Chair reports on

(1) Status of Recommendations on Task Force on the Status of Lecturers, J. Basden (Religion) chair

Their report has been sent to the Provost, and they will follow up with the Provost regarding any response. The report discusses the following issues:

- Senior Lecturers will now be awarded 2-year contracts, with the same benefits package as tenure-track and tenured faculty;
- Lecturers with terminal degrees in their fields may apply for Associate Graduate Faculty Status;
- Sr. Lecturers will now be eligible to apply for full (8-month) and summer sabbaticals;
- Comprehensive review of Lecturers is scheduled to take place in the Fall semester of their 7th year;

Losey moved that the Senate write a letter of appreciation to Basden for his superb and diligent work; motion was seconded by A. Bowery, and passed.

Senators discussed several implications of this policy, especially how the policy may affect current tenure-track faculty as well as future hirings of tenure-track faculty.

Finally, the Senate will ask the Provost to respond to this document.

(2) Request to Provost regarding status of Faculty Dismissal Policy, Policy on Financial Exigency and reduction of Academic Programs, and Reduction of Academic Programs not mandated by Financial Exigency.

The Provost has talked with N. Bice, new University Counsel, about the Senate's requests, and was told that Bice will be in touch soon with the administration's response.

(3) New Faculty Designations.

A listing of the new faculty designations was distributed. McGee requested that Senators read the document and contact him with any comments or questions.

B. Report on University Travel Policy (Jim Tipton)

Tipton reported that the policy adopted on 6/1/98 remains in force, though exceptions are handled on a case-by-case basis. The university has agreed to waive the standard

requirements in the case of International Travel, but the policy concerning individuals with respective discounts ("Senior discounts," for example) is not likely to be modified. Following a lengthy discussion, the Senate agreed to postpone further discussion until complete figures regarding travel costs (using the new procedures) are available.

C. Report on Evaluation of Administrators (McGee for Buddo)

The procedures for evaluation of administrators have been developed by M. Crone. Previously, Crone indicated her willingness to meet with a small group of Senators to review the policy. However, she has postponed that meeting indefinitely until she has secured approval of the Provost.

VII. Additional Items

A. Request to re-evaluate the academic calendar.

McGee reported that G. Sims, on behalf of the students, had requested that the University consider adding a Fall Break to the existing schedule, and provided two possible scenarios for doing so.

After extensive discussion, the Senate agreed to report to Sims that there was no consensus as to the nature of the problem nor agreement about possible solutions, and the Senate would take no formal action on the matter at this time.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Weaver

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