

Minutes
Faculty Senate
January 23, 1990

Present:

D. Andrist, P. Armitstead, W. Brown, M. Busch, R. Cannon, N. Keathley, J. Lusk, L. Lyon, B. Patterson, A. Richards, S. Rosenbaum, D. Vitanza, L. Chonko, M. Hart, T. Maness, J. Rose, A. Baker, N. Goodloe, D. Rogers, T. Featherston, J. Gordon, E. Farren, A. Sharp.

Absent:

W. Ghee, D. Jennings, D. Kopplin, R. Riley, D. Wivagg

The meeting began at 3:30 in Blume Conference Center. Don Hardcastle opened with a prayer.

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Reports:

1. Dr. Patterson reports that

a. During his Faculty Forum, Dr. Reynolds addressed the issue of Basil Thompson's memorandum to the faculty concerning lawsuits to which the University is party. The executive committee of the Senate felt Dr. Reynolds remarks adequately addressed the issue. Dr. Patterson and Dr. Lyon will meet regularly with Basil Thomson to minimize the possibility of misunderstanding on future occasions.

b. The Council of Deans will meet February 7. On that occasion, Dr. Patterson will take up the matter raised in the Senate's previous meeting about grade inflation.

c. The Senate Newsletter elicited gratifying comments from many faculty members who appreciate knowing what the Senate is doing. Dr. Hart requests suggestions about the newsletter. Senate members agree it is excellent.

d. Responses to the newsletter came from Tom Charlton and Eric Rust. Dr. Charlton raised the question of University School representation on the Senate. Dr. Patterson referred the issue to the Committee on Senate Representation now studying the issue of lecturer representation. Drs. Lusk and Kopplin were added to the Senate Representation Committee.

Dr. Rust raised the issue of absences of athletes. (In one case, an athlete "officially" missed almost enough classes to drop below the University's 75% class attendance rule.) Dr. Patterson referred this issue to the Senate Committee on the Role of Athletics at Baylor, chaired by Dr. Chonko.

e. Senate members are urged to attend, and to urge their colleagues to attend, the President's Faculty Forum February 7, at 3:30 in the Drawing Room of the Union.

2. Dr. Armitstead, Senate representative to the Strategic Planning Council, reports that the Council is deliberating about (1) The Health Center's need for additional space, (2)

deficiencies in recreation facilities and in numbers of PEH classes for students to satisfy requirements, and (3) ways to do a better job on retention of students.

3. Dr. Rosenbaum, chair of the Senate's Advisory Committee on Academic Freedom and Responsibility, reports that the committee has met and deliberated about an issue of academic freedom and has communicated results of to Dr. Reynolds. He further reports that the committee deliberated about the issue of its own reporting function: does the committee properly report results of deliberations to the Senate, or only to the President and the Academic Vice President? Relevant documents suggest different answers to this question. The Senate desired further deliberation about this issue at a future meeting, and Dr. Patterson requested Dr. Rosenbaum to bring relevant documents to the next executive committee meeting.

4. Dr. Armitstead, member of the committee on committees, reports that the committee will begin intensive meetings during February. They are considering a petition to allow lecturers on University committees.

5. Dr. Elzinga presented a preliminary report (attached) on the issue of lecturer representation on the Senate. The options presented in the report were discussed, and the committee will bring a recommendation to the next meeting of the Senate. (Dr. Sharp noted that the right to Senate representation is different from the responsibility, attending other faculty appointments, to serve on University committees.)

6. The publications committee had no report.

7. Dr. Armitstead, chair of the Senate Committee on Evaluation of Department Chairs, reports that the committee will have a formal report at the next meeting of the Senate. Cliff Williams University Committee on Department Chairs is drafting a document on responsibilities of department chairs. The Senate Committee is dealing with other issues, including the possibility of a recommendation for administrative assistants for chairs.

8. Dr. Hardcastle, chair of the Senate Committee on Faculty Merit Pay, reports the committee is in the middle of its plan of action. The plan of action includes speaking personally with all deans, soliciting a written response from each department chair, and seeking feedback from the entire faculty. They intend including all relevant groups in the deliberations. The deans favor merit pay. Some schools and departments already implement it; some do not. Natural problems attend discussion of the issue, e.g., What is merit pay? What procedure is appropriate to bring about everyone understanding exactly what is expected?

9. Dr. Chonko, chair of the Senate Committee on Athletics at Baylor, reports a concern about what the role of the Senate committee can be beyond the role of the Trustee/University committee. The committee will meet to consider the issue raised by Dr. Rust's letter to the Senate about class attendance of athletes.

Other Business:

1. Dr. Rogers reports that faculty are now prohibited from advertising faculty housing in Items. What is an appropriate instrument for advertising? Why did the policy change? Dr. Patterson appointed Dr. Rogers chair of a committee to investigate these questions and to report to the Senate as early as possible.

2. Dr. Rogers requested clarification of the policy on posting grades. There was agreement that any posting that might allow identification of students was impermissible. Confidentiality must be maintained.
3. Dr. Rosenbaum requested information about the Senate's tuition grant proposal to the administration. Dr. Patterson said the matter would be dealt with at the next meeting.
4. Dr. Andrist, in response to constituents' questions, asked about the wisdom of urging wellness for faculty while dropping the health club membership benefit and not providing other athletic/recreational facilities for faculty. She reported that someone from HPER had conveyed the message that facilities are planned in order to improve opportunity for faculty athletic activity.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stuart Rosenbaum, Secretary