

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 1998
MINUTES**

The Faculty Senate convened at 3:30 p.m. in Cashion Room 303, Hankamer School of Business, with Chair Chris Buddo presiding.

Present: Ray Wilson for D. Adams, Baird, Basden, Beckner, Bowery, Buddo, Chinn, Jane Baldwin for C. Davis, E. Davis, Farris, Genrich, Gordon, Linda Cobbs for Hillman, Jensen, K. Johnson, P. Johnson, Johnston, Longfellow, Losey, McGee, Supplee, Stone, Tipton, Weaver, Wiley, Willis, Yelderman, Youngdale

Absent: L. Adams, Carini, Conyers, Rolf

I. Invocation

Jeter Basden led the invocation.

II. Approval of February 17 Minutes

The minutes of the February 17, 1998 meeting were approved as distributed.

III. Election Report and Preference Sheets

Beth Youngdale, Secretary, reported that the election for the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Music was complete. The School of Education and the Hankamer School of Business both had ties, necessitating run-off elections. Both candidates from the School of Education had expressed a desire to be in the run-off. Only one of the candidates in the Business School had responded concerning the run-off.

Preference Sheets for Committee Assignments for the 1998-9 school year were distributed. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will use the preference sheets to make recommendations as to committee assignments.

IV. Committee Issues--Facilities Use and Campus Solicitation

A. Facilities Use and Campus Solicitation

Chris Buddo followed up on the Committee's request to be sunsetted. Dr. Schmeltekopf suggested that the Senate ask the committee to redefine its charge so that it will be responsible for policies in regard to facilities and campus solicitation rather than setting up use of facilities.

B. Robert Foster Cherry Award Committee

Proposed changes to the description of the Robert Foster Cherry Award Committee were forwarded to the administration for approval.

C. Miscellaneous issues

Buddo sent a letter with the Faculty Senate's 2/17/98 motion to Dr. Schmeltekopf regarding the request that the administration look at the Policy and Procedure for Responding to Financial Exigency by Reducing Academic Programs and the Procedure for Discontinuance or Reduction of Academic Programs Not Mandated by Financial Exigency as a way of answering some of the issues raised by the lectureship study. Dr. Schmeltekopf agreed to look at the policies and procedures again.

V. Grievance Update

James Wiley reported that he had received a copy of a draft grievance policy being worked on by Bill Underwood. The committee will meet to look at Underwood's policy, discuss their views with Underwood and then get back with the Senate.

VI. Items from Council of Deans/Provost Schmeltekopf

A. Suggested Benchmarks for Academic Units

At the last Faculty Senate meeting, Buddo had passed out the suggested benchmarks for academic units with a request that the Faculty Senate review the document and comment. What follows is the discussion of the proposed benchmarks:

There is a general concern that the benchmarks are not entirely consistent with other documents of the University. For example item I.A.8.a. on page 4 of the document suggests a tone that is not in line with the Statement on Scholarly Expectations--the parenthetical seems to define scholarship differently than the Statement.

The Senate needs to keep in mind that definitions among the different documents of the University should be consistent.

There was concern expressed also over the fact that there is not currently the support--financial or administrative--to accomplish what is being proposed. Is the University willing or able to provide that support?

What about teaching? There are no benchmarks proposed for the quality of teaching. What's the significance of that?

One suggestion was that there be allowance made for more narrow focus among the faculty. Let faculty concentrate on what they love and are good

at, whether it's teaching or research. Fear that the benchmarks go too far in prescribing the conduct of the faculty.

There was also concern expressed about how exactly the benchmarks relate to the goals the University has made for itself.

There was discussion about sitting down with the administration to work out benchmarks that would be more acceptable to the faculty as a whole. Perhaps there could be a committee of senators and administrators to work on the document.

It is important to remember that this is a draft document of suggested benchmarks. It is still in the planning phase and the Senate has been asked to be a part of it.

It was decided that the Senate would respond by expressing its concern about three major points:

1. lack of consistency with the Statement on Scholarly Expectation,
2. lack of support and resources for what is being proposed, and
3. relationship between the document and the University's stated goals.

B. Annual Evaluation of Administrators

The first evaluation of administrators was completed last year. Several questions raised were 1. why the forms were returned to the President's office, 2. why the people on the form were on the form, and 3. how often are such reviews planned.

Marilyn Crone VP for Human Resources asked the Senate what the faculty and staff would like to get out of these evaluations. Items discussed by the Senate had to do with the purpose and effect of the evaluations, ensuring confidentiality of evaluators, and making sure that evaluations are done regularly and consistently.

C. President's Forum

The administration is in the process of developing a new lecture series that would bring prominent speakers to the campus.

VII. Committee/Liaison Reports

A. Faculty Committee on Academic Freedom, Responsibility, and Environment--Dan McGee, Chair

Dan McGee reported that the committee had come up with a change to the Chair Search Procedure Policy as a response to the way the policy had recently been implemented.

The previous language read:

Following consultation between the faculty and the Dean, the faculty will make recommendations to the Dean regarding the membership of the search committee. The Dean may adopt, suggest amendment, or return the recommendations to the faculty for further faculty consideration. In the event that the Dean suggests an amendment, or returns the recommendations, then the Dean and the faculty, within a reasonable time period, in good faith, and with mutual accommodation, should work toward a mutually satisfactory agreement concerning the size and composition of the search committee. Following this process of consultation, the Dean will appoint the search committee.

After discussion and a friendly amendment, the suggested language changes the first sentence as follows:

Following consultation between the faculty and the Dean, the faculty will recommend the membership of the search committee and the Chair of the search committee to the Dean.

The recommendation was adopted unanimously.

The committee will be meeting again to discuss the 50% Baptist policy.

B. Faculty Committee on Enrollment Management--Howard Rolf, Chair

No report.

C. Faculty Committee on Physical Facilities--Joe Yelderman, Chair

No report.

D. Faculty Committee on Student Life and Services--Gary Carini, Chair

No report.

E. Staff Council Liaison--Linda Adams

Buddo for L. Adams gave a reminder about the staff service project, which will be in support of CASA.

VIII. Other Items or Announcements

All business being completed, Senate Chair Buddo declared the meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Youngdale, Secretary