

Minutes #169 - Faculty Senate  
10 April '96

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, April 10, 1996, at 3:15 p.m. in the Senate Room of the University Center with Murray Coulter, president, presiding. Senators present were Casadonte, Corbett, Coombs, Dowell, Dunham, Dunne, Durland, Fedler, Fortney, Fox, George, P. Goebel, Hartwell, Heintz, Held, Howe, Hufford, A. Khan, Mann, Meek, R. Morrow, Nathan, Opp, Pearson, Rickets, River, Schaller, Steinhart, L. Thompson, V. Thompson, Tock, Westfall and Whisnant. Senators Barr, Cardenas-Garcia, DeBell, Elbow, U. Goebel, S. Khan, Miller, and Stout were absent because of University business. Senator Schoenecke is on leave. Senators Herring, Jackson, McGlone, T. Morrow, Sarkar, and Welton were absent.

President Coulter called the meeting to order at 3:20 and recognized the following guests: John Burns, Interim Provost; Robert H. Ewalt, Vice President for Student Affairs; Gene Medley, Director of Admissions and Records; Virginia Sowell, Associate Provost; Alfonse Scandrett, Associate Athletic Director; Sharen Hart, Office of Development; Robert M. Sweazy, Vice Provost for Research; Jim Brunjes, Interim Vice President for Fiscal Affairs; and Charles Melton, University Daily.

**I. Minutes of 13 March 1996 meeting were approved as distributed.**

**II. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Coulter strongly encouraged all senators to participate in commencement.

**III. REPORTS FROM INVITED GUESTS**

Dr. Robert Ewalt - Dr. Ewalt discussed the current issues regarding student enrollment and retention. The first topic discussed was the student information system and that a committee consisting of Drs. Bagert, Strauss, and Winer and other non-faculty personnel recommended that an outside package be purchased rather than develop our own system. This recommendation was made in order to speed the process in obtaining the system. The system under investigation could be available by Fall 1997. It will contain much of what the university desires, but not everything. Development of the additional items desired will come at a later date. After all the information is collected, the recommendation for the purchase will be forwarded to the Board of Regents for the May meeting. Funds for the project are expected to come from the General Use fund.

Dr. Alfonso Scandrett - Dr. Scandrett reported on the significant progress of academics for the athletes over the last four years. The information was positive explaining that the athletes performed as good or better than the student body as a whole. The complete report is on file in the Faculty Senate office.

Dr. John Burns - (Includes the Provost Council report) The initial discussion focused on the self-insurance reserve. On April 9, Interim President Haragan met with several members of the University Benefits and Retirement Committee and the Faculty Senate and announced that the Board of Regents would not consider any proposal that involved direct return of the funds to employees. Dr. Haragan said he made a preliminary proposal that the surplus be used to endow a scholarship fund for employees and their families. His presentation specified that the scholarships should be merit based and that the Regents were very receptive to the proposal. Other items of interest were: 10 new line item requests were made and the Provost Council will determine which

ones will go forward. Dr. Langford requested that all departments examine their Ph.D. programs to broaden the skills of their graduates for marketability; the 5th Court of Appeals ruling on affirmative action means that in the issuance of scholarships minority status may not be used as a selection factor. Lastly, it was announced that a meeting of the Chancellor Search Subcommittee will be held on 17 April 1996 from 3-4 in the Allen Theater. Everyone is encouraged to attend and to provide input concerning the role of the Chancellor and the qualifications that should be designated for that position.

#### **IV. REPORTS FROM UNIVERSITY COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES**

Provost Council - Was included in the remarks made above by Dr. Burns.

Academic Council - Senator Barr provided a report that is on file in the Faculty Senate office. The report showed that Jerry Mason asked the council to consider a M.A. degree in Human Resource Management, primarily through distance learning. Next, the council wants to find ways to encourage faculty to attend Commencement. Lastly, a subcommittee was formed to consider a possible complication related to the grade replacement policy.

Graduate Council - Senator Durland provided a report that is on file in the Faculty Senate office. Items covered include: the exploration of graduate programs with other campus disciplines, reinstatement of the October 1996 written GRE exam; and the first round of 27-\$1000 graduate scholarships were given plus an additional 18-\$1000 summer awards.

Research Council Secretary Fedler provided a report that is on file in the Faculty Senate office. Main items to note include: the inclusion of new matching salary forms to be completed before any research contract will be accepted and the changes in the OMB Circular-21 regarding use of secretaries, etc. on sponsored projects will be delayed until September 1998.

#### **V. REPORTS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES**

Study Committee B - Senator Pearson presented the following recommended change in language in the Faculty Handbook:

Faculty members and staff may seek and campaign for elective office so long as this is done on their own time and that university resources are not used. It is understood that such campaigning would not interfere with the proper discharge of the faculty or staff member's duties.

Persons elected or appointed to political or political party office or other community service positions on federal, state or local boards or commissions may be required by the Board of Regents to take leave of absence without pay for the duration of their term of service.

The resolution was unanimously accepted.

Senator Pearson also reported on the data collected to date regarding students accepted by the University on a provisional basis. Since the data was not yet complete, further discussion was deferred until additional data is available.

Faculty Status & Welfare Committee - Senator Dunham provided a motion concerning the surplus self-insurance funds. The motion that was passed with 2 opposed and 1 abstention reads as follows:

**BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** the Faculty Senate Faculty Status & Welfare Committee requests that the excess funds from the self-insurance fund be returned directly to the employee. Any funds not so returned may be used as scholarships so long as one-half of the funds are designated to be distributed to employees and the faculty on the basis of need and one-half on the basis of merit. The money should be handled by a faculty/staff committee with members representing the Financial Aid office, the Faculty Senate, and staff. Matters of eligibility should be determined by the committee.

#### **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

#### **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Senate adjourned at 5 o'clock.

Respectfully Submitted  
Clifford B. Fedler  
Secretary 1995-96