

12/19/83

MINUTES

SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE SENATE PRESIDENT

President William J. Mayer-Oakes gave a review of the resignation process followed by Senate Bubany and detailed the sequence of that process. Following a discussion of that period and the actions of the agenda committee during that term, Dr. Newcomb, indicated that the Dean of the Law School had not given release time to President Bubany for his service as Senate President.

President Mayer-Oakes indicated he felt that a communication concerning the resignation of Dr. Bubany should be prepared and circulated to the Senators and he intended to include in that communication a summary of the resignation and actions of the agenda committee during that process. The presidential reorganization indicating the president's intentions to have the agenda committee act as an executive committee and his initiation of an advisory committee composed of chairs of standing Senate committees as well as past presidents of the Senate. President Mayer-Oakes indicated what his mode of operation as president would be -- indicating that he intended to serve as a presiding officer rather than a leader from the floor. President Mayer-Oakes also indicated his desire to call for a vote of confidence. After some discussion, two major recommendations were made. The first, that Bubany's letter of resignation be circulated to the Senate and that a note be made regarding the difference in the date on the letter and the date that it was actually signed. The second recommendation was an objection by Dr. Higdon to any process leading to a call for a vote of confidence indicating that this would be a destructive action to the Senate and certainly unnecessary at this time. The consensus of the people present were strongly supportive of that viewpoint.

President Mayer-Oakes gave a summary of proposed actions and asked for advice from the group in attendance. First, he asked if it is necessary to review this resignation situation in detail or on a broader scale? The response was "no." Secondly, should a vacancy for Bubany be filled at this time? The response was that no action was needed at this time. Thirdly, a suggestion was made that the Senate should clarify whether the term limitation for officers should be extended to include the new vice presidential nominee. It was suggested that first Robert's Rules of Orders should be checked for clarification since our Constitution and Bylaws are silent on this point and that secondly, that information, as well as an indication of a response from the Senate, be given at the next Faculty Senate meeting. Lastly, President Mayer-Oakes asked for reaction to his proposed "long term planning committee". Mixed discussion took place and the major consensus was that no action should be made until the committee report by Bob Rouse concerning goals of the University had been made. During the discussion, some exchange was made concerning closed versus open meetings. The consensus was that it is undesirable, if not inappropriate, to hold closed Senate meetings, but that advisory and individual committee meetings could be used for more informal and less public discussion. Jerry Hudson and Henry Wright particularly, indicated their wishes that the Senate should formulate its own list of concerns and priorities rather than acting only on those that were given the Senate by the Academic Vice President or the University President.

The meeting concluded shortly after 10:30. Those in attendance included Senate President William J. Mayer-Oakes, Secretary Coulter and Senators Pearson, Elbow, Wright, Richardson, Urban, Sullivan, Adamcik, Hudson, Gott, Eissinger and McLaughlin. Also attending were faculty members (and past members of the Senate) Newcomb and Higdon.