

MINUTES OF FACULTY SENATE MEETING 79

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, May 7, 1986 in the Senate Room of the University Center with Margaret E. Wilson, president, presiding. Senators present were Aycock, Blair, Brink, Burnett, Carlile, Collins, Cravens, Curry, Davis, Dixon, Dvoracek, Ford, Gades, Gipson, Goss, Hartwell, Havens, Khan, Lawrence, McLaughlin, Minifie, Newcomb, Oberhelman, Owens, Platten, Randolph, Rude, Skoog, M. Smith, R. Smith, Sparkman, Steele, Stockton, Strauss, Tereshkovich, Teske, Vallabhan, Whitehead, Whitsitt, Williams and Wright. Senators Eissinger, Keho and Koeppel were absent because of University business. Senators Higdon, Mann, Scott, Shine and Wicker were absent. Senators Pearson and Sullivan are on leave of absence.

I. Introduction of Guests

After calling the meeting to order at 3:35, Wilson recognized the following guests: Virginia Sowell, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research; Gene Medley, Director of Admissions and Records; Panze Kimmel, chair, Joint Faculty Senate/Administration Committee to Review Enrollment Procedures; Preston Lewis, News & Publications, and Frank Bass, Avalanche Journal.

Before continuing with the business of the day, Wilson invited the Senate to join with her in a moment of silent tribute to our recently deceased colleague Professor Edna Gott.

II. Approval of Minutes of Meeting 78 and May 5 Special Meeting

Both sets of minutes were approved as distributed.

III. Report of Senate Vice President Havens

At the most recent Academic Council meeting, Havens reported, budget problems continued to loom large. Faculty salary expenditures are still over their target, and the hiring freeze remains in effect. The Deans are as aware as faculty that doing more work with fewer people and resources will inevitably affect the quality of work done.

VPAAR Haragan will soon begin a process of formulating long-range plans for the University, and faculty will participate in that planning.

Department chairpersons will have more flexibility in making their 1987 schedules, but will have to specify their needs more exactly from the beginning of the scheduling process.

IV. Reports of Standing Committees

A. Academic Programs Committee (placed first because Carlile had a schedule conflict).

After noting that the committee discussed several modifications of the pass-fail grading option and terminology, chairperson Carlile moved, on behalf of the committee, that the terms pass and fail be replaced with the terms satisfactory and unsatisfactory, with satisfactory representing any grade above failing.

During discussion Carlile noted that this motion represents only a change in terminology. Newcomb pointed out that the grade of D is defined in the University Catalog as unsatisfactory.

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McLaughlin moved to amend the motion by making satisfactory represent a grade of C or higher, unsatisfactory a grade of D or F. The amendment was seconded but failed.

The motion failed.

C. Committee on Committees

Chairperson Minifie moved adoption of the published slate of candidates for remaining committee vacancies. The motion carried without opposition.

At Wilson's request members of the committee distributed, collected, and counted ballots for the election to fill two vacancies on the Faculty Senate Tenure and Privilege committee. Elected were Professors Wayne Ford and Jimmie Smith.

C. Faculty Status and Welfare Committee

Chairperson Lawrence reported that no action has been taken on an Intellectual Property Policy because no draft has been received from the VPAAR's office. Rude, the Senate representative on the drafting committee, said that he has received little faculty input and requested more. Wilson, noting that VPAAR Haragan has agreed not to take a policy to the Board of Regents until the Senate has had time to review it, asked the current Faculty Status and Welfare committee to continue its work on this issue until it is resolved, probably next September. Chairperson Lawrence agreed to do so.

V. Old Business

A. Grade Appeals in Graduate Courses

Langford, on behalf of the Graduate School, said that his office hopes to leave latitude for discussion between the Graduate Dean and the College Dean in grade appeal cases, and offered a possible clarification that would resolve the problems created by the Senate's April resolution on this matter (see attachment).

Cravens moved to adopt the revision. The motion was seconded and carried without opposition.

B. Joint Faculty Senate/Administration Committee to Review Enrollment Procedures

Kimmel stated that she and Medley would provide an interim report. The committee has been meeting regularly since December, and has investigated most major areas, including recruitment, admission procedures, admission requirements, advisement, financial aid, and registration. Remaining to be investigated are retention and counseling. At its April 30 meeting the committee adopted two major recommendations:

1. That the comprehensive degree audit be implemented on an experimental basis in one or two colleges or departments.
2. That scheduled pre-registration be limited to one week, beginning with the spring 1987 semester.

During the discussion Medley said that a degree audit will provide for each student a printout tracing his or her progress through the degree program, showing courses completed, courses remaining to be completed, and transfer or elective courses not directly contributing to the degree program. Programming such an audit is difficult for programs offering many options to students, and the program probably will not include lists of prerequisites completed or needed.

The committee hopes to complete its work and issue a final report by October 1.

C. Academic Publications

Brink, reporting on the investigation by the Tenure Advisory Committee of the issue of Tech Press's refusal to publish the proceedings of the Comparative Literature Symposium "War and Peace: Perspectives in the Nuclear Age," read a letter from that committee to President Cavazos. That letter summarizes the committee's findings that manuscript selection and evaluation procedures at the Tech Press are too informal and subjective, permitting the director of the press to deny publication on the basis of the undocumented assertion that "War and Peace" is "propagandistic." No readers' reports were found from before the time of the director's rejection, and subsequent readers' reports do not support the director's judgment of the proceedings as a whole. The committee recommends, in the letter, that clear, written manuscript evaluation and selection procedures be established.

President Cavazos, in a letter of response to the committee, agrees with the need for such procedures and has directed VPAAR Haragan to implement the recommendation and make any other administrative changes needed in academic publications.

D. Update on Tenure Task Force

In the absence of Eissinger, Wilson noted that ballots for the faculty vote on the draft tenure policy are expected to be delivered to the departments Thursday morning (May 8), with a May 12 return deadline. She charged each senator with making sure that his or her 20 constituents vote, a large vote being essential to showing the Board of Regents that the faculty remains vitally interested in the issue of tenure. In response to a question on the possibility that the Regents might make substantive changes in the document after the faculty vote, Wilson said her understanding was that, in that case, "the faculty would not have voted on the document."

VI. New Business

Wilson called attention to a letter from Vice President for Finance and Administration Payne saying that future accounting and billing matters will be taken care of more expeditiously, and to a Coordinating Board report calling for substantial salary increases for Texas faculty.

VII. Other Business

R. Smith commended President Wilson for her fair and strong leadership during the past year. Applause followed.

Wilson called attention to three honors recently won by Senators: William Sparkman, 1987-88 President Elect of the American Education Finance Association; Donald Rude received a Faculty Development Leave; and Peggy Williams received the Soroptimist Club Women Helping Women Award for 1986.

VIII. Closing Report from President Wilson

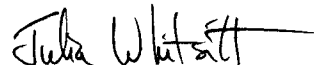
Reminding the Senate that nine months ago she set as a goal a major revision of the tenure policy, Wilson expressed her hope that "our baby" will be alive and healthy after the Board of Regents meets May 16. She credited the Tenure Advisory Committee and its chairman, Eric Bolen, and the Tenure Task Force and its chairman, James Eissinger, with bringing us this close to a resolution of the tenure issue.

Wilson then said that another of her major goals, establishing the Senate as a recognized representative faculty body in the eyes of the administration and regents, has been partially achieved. She cited statistics showing that the Senate is numerically representative of the faculty, and said that most faculty seem to have supported most Senate actions this year. She challenged next year's Senate and its officers to continue to work for greater recognition.

Wilson challenged the administration to give greater credit for faculty service on the Senate and on University committees, citing the reluctance of many junior faculty to serve because of their perception that no consideration will be given to their time and effort at tenure and promotion time.

Finally, Wilson thanked all Senate committee chairpersons, parliamentarian Vernon McGuire, office secretary Grace Frazier, vice-president Havens, and secretary Whitsitt. She recognized those Senators completing their three-year terms, and Senator Roland Smith, who is retiring from the University. Amid applause she declared the meeting adjourned at 5:02.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julia Whitsitt". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Julia Whitsitt, Secretary

Attachment - V. Old Business

A. Grade Appeals in Graduate Courses

Proposed wording for OP on grade appeals

1. f. The processing of formal grade appeals is the responsibility of the college which administers the course (Agriculture, [Architecture], Arts and Sciences, Business Administration, Education, Engineering, Home Economics, and Law). The decision on a grade is the responsibility of the dean of the college which administers the course, except that for graduate students [in the Graduate School] ~~other than law students it is the responsibility of the dean of the graduate school--~~ [the recommendation will be forwarded to the Dean of the Graduate School for final disposition.]
2. e. In a case involving a graduate student [in the Graduate School] ~~other than a law student,~~ the appeal is processed through the college administering the course with the grade decision being ~~the responsibility of the college dean--~~ [forwarded to the Dean of the Graduate School for final disposition.]