MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

The Faculty Senate met in regular session on Wednesday, February 5, at 2:30 p.m. in Conference Room 4, Davis Hall. Chairman I. Bernstein presided.


APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chairman asked for approval of minutes. Senator Mykytyn moved for approval, motion seconded by Senator Duwaji. There being no corrections or additions the minutes were approved unanimously.

REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN: Chairman Bernstein introduced Acting President Dr. Nedderman.

Further introductions included presenting permanent replacements in the membership of the Senate; Burke Burkart for Senator Bill Balsam, Edward Cowan for Senator Dolores Holder, and temporary replacement Don Cantwell for Senator Don Panton.

Chairman Bernstein gave an update on the progress of the Presidential Search Committee for representative Marc Dunn, reporting the Committee is close to choosing the final candidates and making the final selection. Further, the members are pleased with the procedure in that the final list well represents the Committee's desires.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAIRMAN: Senator Girardot asked if the UT System had been declared unconstitutional, referring to Federal laws concerning providing adequately for the differently abled student.

The Chairman assured him the system was not unconstitutional, but that some of the adjustments for the benefit of the differently abled had not yet been made on some campuses.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT: Acting President Nedderman reported that the Budget Hearings will be held February 18, 1992. Time spent is justified. The chair of each department or support department has an opportunity to sit down and talk with Budget Committee.

Dr. Nedderman stated that because of the seriousness of the limited budget the University will be forced to look at itself closely. This is a time for tactical planning.
We are beginning the budgetary process for the second year of the biennium under a cloud. In years gone by we knew what we had and what to expect for the second year. This time, however, the State Comptroller has been given the authority to reduce State agencies by up to 7% for the second year of the biennium.

Reporting on the planned building and improvements on campus, Dr. Nedderman informed the Senate that an elevator will be installed in the P. E. Building by the end of February to further enhance our efforts to accommodate the physically handicapped/differently abled students. Though this University has been sited for its progressive action in this area, there are still improvements to be made which will necessitate the spending of more money. The Act for Disabled Americans recently passed by the Legislature states that Universities must provide additional services.

The replacement of the 2000 linear ft. of underground tunnel will begin the end of February. The East-West Mall will be in disrepair for an undetermined length of time but the end result will justify the inconvenience. Construction on the new Science Building will begin in late summer utilizing the area of the parking lot and old gymnasium, which will be razed, providing 58,000 sq. ft. for the new building. Dr. Nedderman explained the difficulties of getting our plans approved. The proposal to remove the needed 58,000 ft. from our present inventory, partially through the razing of the old gym and the selling of the President's house, determined our success in obtaining the approval.

Dr. Nedderman further informed the Senate that there are new rules for new degree programs. The first two years of a program there will be no formula funding, the second two years perhaps one-half could be formula funding. He reported the dismal mood of the Coordinating Board and their determination to hold down all spending.

QUESTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT: Senator Walker asked if the 7% reduction pertains to total State appropriation or to individual agencies. Does the Comptroller have the authority to reduce each agency by 7% or could he be selective, reduce one agency by 3% and another by 10%, etc.?

Dr. Nedderman responded that it was not clear to him.

Senator Smith injected that he did not think so.

Senator Mykytyn inquired as to whether or not the Coordinating Board could eliminate existing programs.

Dr. Nedderman affirmed that it could be possible. He assured the Senate members that this situation is not unique to Texas; these problems in higher education are prevalent in many states.

Tuition at the Graduate level will be doubled in the Schools of Architecture, Business and Social Work from $24.00 to $48.00 per semester hour. The Legislature has mandated Coordinating Board to figure cost of non-resident Graduate courses at $162.00 per credit hour.

At the Regents meeting on February 13th the Schools of Urban Development and Public Affairs, Nursing and the Center for Education also will also ask for the raise in tuition to $48.00. Twenty-five percent of extra income is to be held aside for scholarships and for GTA's.
There is a deep philosophical change in Texas. Until the year 1985 it was felt that it was in the best interest of Texas to make higher education universally available at a low cost. During these times the tuition was $4.00 per semester hour. Currently this is not feasible.

For decades gas and oil production kept Texas at an economic peak. After the early 1970's there was a decline in production and by 1985 with OPEC raising prices the economy of Texas declined as well.

Nevertheless, given all the aforementioned circumstances, Dr. Nedderman stated he was not ready to concede a program shutdown is a possibility.

**FURTHER REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN:** Chairman Berstein reminded the Senate members of the need to appoint a Nominating Committee asking that volunteers make themselves known to him following the meeting. The Nominating Committee will be composed of representatives from the major departments.

The Chairman requested that item #9 be moved to this portion of the agenda. Motion for the change was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Senator Burley Walker addressed the issue of the Fall 1991 grade reports. Two Departments of the College of Business missed the 10:00 a.m., December 23rd deadline, "which resulted in 2000 incomplete grades, 2000 incidents with poor results for our students." Furthermore, he reported that Tony Baker, in refusing receipt of some grades past the posted deadline, had said: "Well, I guess we put the screws to the tardies this time." He asked that the Faculty Senate investigate the procedure.

Chairman Bernstein asked for a motion.

Senator Walker moved for the Faculty Senate to investigate reporting of grades. The motion was seconded.

The Chairman asked Zack Prince to address this situation.

Zack Prince of the Registrar’s Office stated that students are due a timely report. He explained that grades are usually due the Monday following finals. It takes Monday afternoon and evening and all day Tuesday, which in 1991 was Christmas Eve, to complete the recording of the grades and get them to the Post Office. He further stated that all faculty and departments had been informed there would be no exceptions to the deadline.

Senator Mykytyn told the Senate he had received a long distance call from a student in Arizona decrying his incomplete grade which was causing him an academic problem.

Senator Walker informed the Senate that when some of the late grades were taken to the Registrar shortly after the deadline they were refused. All of those students received in incomplete grades and many of them were adversely affected. He declared this to be poor public relations.

Senator Hermann asked if all would not have been well if the 10:00 deadline had been observed? He stated that there was no excuse for grades being late.

Senator Walker agreed the grades should have been on time, but since there was a problem it resulted in the students being the losers. He said it affected many students' funding and many students who were on probation.
Zack Prince explained that at one time grades were accepted into the afternoon but with new software, which has increased accuracy but not speed, it is no longer possible.

Senator Hermann inquired the reason for not being able to run late grades.

Mr. Prince responded that the equipment doesn't permit running only a few.

Senator Walker stated he wanted a committee to investigate the situation.

Mr. Prince answered that the grades should be turned in as received.

Senator Eisenfeld reiterated that it is the faculty members responsibility to see that the grades are turned in on time.

Senator Walker agreed but pointed out that incomplete grades, whatever the reason or circumstances, can have a terrible impact.

Chairman Bernstein injected he would like to refer this to the Research and Development Committee if the motion passes.

Senator Porter inquired of Senator Walker what he hoped the result would be if this was pursued.

Senator Walker responded that he wasn't sure, but that there should be some kind of change. He stated "There is a question here about common sense. The students are our customers; they should not be penalized".

Chairman Bernstein asked if the Senate wished to have an investigation into the matter.

Senator Eisenfeld recommended that the Senate try to look at possible ways of improving the reporting of grades and the deadlines and to so amend the motion.

Senator Walker said that he would accept that amendment.

Chairman Berstein called for a vote on the amended motion. Motion carried.

The matter will be referred to Research and Development Committee.

Senator Tolbert volunteered to work with the Committee.

REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT BAKER: Vice President Baker's remarks were brief. "Everything is lovely with the world - I am returning from five days in Austin."

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Senator Walker reported the Equity Committee had received two petitions; one has been resolved, and one is under consideration.

The Operating and Procedure Committee is still meeting.

OLD BUSINESS Old business was postponed.
NEW BUSINESS. The Student Congress has put forth a Resolution in favor of UTA observing Dr. Martin Luther King’s birthday as a school holiday.

Chairman Bernstein disqualified himself from presiding during this discussion, as he had previously signed a petition concerning the issue. He turned the meeting over to Senator Pape who spoke for the Resolution.

Senator Porter, in support of the Resolution, made the motion that the Faculty Senate recommend UTA observe Dr. King’s Birthday as an official school holiday.

Motion was seconded by Senator Harwood.

Discussion followed.

Senator Girardot objected on the grounds that it would cause problems with Lab scheduling and asked to reconsider the date as the first week of class would be difficult to schedule.

Senator Porter reminded all that it is a nationally set holiday and told the Senate that we are unique in not recognizing it as such. Further, recognition would be a validation of minority constituency and of all of us, and that the value outweighs the admitted inconvenience.

Senator Eisenfeld declared this to be part of the bigger picture of how UTA relates to minorities in general. He said that a better relationship is needed and that this observance of Dr. King’s Birthday would be a step in that direction.

Senator Harwell remarked that we are missing the point if we can't rearrange our schedule.

The vote was taken and motion carried.

Chairman Bernstein announced he was grateful it had passed as the petition that he had signed was in favor of the Resolution.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Senator Hermann announced that at the next meeting he would like to re-address the issue and the motion to raise high school math requirements.

Senator Cowan assured him he would have his support.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 3:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Lana Rings
Secretary

C. Florence Zuefeldt, Recorder