MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

The Faculty Senate met in regular session on Wednesday, March 10, 1993 at 2:30 p.m. in Conference Room 4 of Davis Hall. Chairwoman Mary Ridgway presided. Dr. Ridgway introduced Brandon Blasingame from the Shorthorn, Brian Chase, a peer counselor for the Office of Counseling and Career Development, and Sandra Warner, Administrative Assistant I from the Department of Exercise, Sport and Health Studies, who will be assisting Burley Walker in recording and transcribing the minutes of the Faculty Senate in future meetings.


APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chairwoman Ridgway explained that there had been several omissions of information in the minutes of the November 18, 1992 meeting and that a personal memo had been inadvertently attached to the minutes. These minutes have been corrected and distributed to the Senate and Chairwoman Ridgway asked for approval of the amended minutes of the November 18, 1992 meeting. Senator G. Ladde presented several corrections/amendments to these minutes, circulating copies of the corrections to the Senate members. The corrections were too numerous to amend from the floor, therefore, Dr. Ridgway replied she would review these corrections and that this matter would be dealt with during the April Senate Meeting.

Chairwoman Ridgway asked for approval of the minutes of the February 10 minutes. It was pointed out that Russ Grunewald's name was misspelled. The minutes were approved with this correction.

REMARKS BY THE CHAIRWOMAN: Chairwoman Ridgway received approval of the Senate to rearrange the order of the agenda so that Brian Chase, a student volunteer for Career Day, could present information concerning the upcoming Career Day for Students on April 7. Brian circulated a handout concerning this event explaining that this is an opportunity for students to interact with prospective employers. He asked the Senators to share this information with their departments and students.

Chairwoman Ridgway discussed and distributed a sample copy of a new Faculty Senate newsletter, Faculty Focus, which has been prepared for the purpose of disseminating viable information to the faculty. Such a newsletter could contain pertinent information, summaries, etc. from meetings such as Council of Faculty Governance Organization, Board of Regents System. She suggested this format would keep the faculty members informed of things that are happening.

Chairwoman Ridgway informed the Senate of a Faculty Governance Workshop which is upcoming. She also mentioned that Julius "Jack" Getman (UT Law Professor) was the banquet speaker at the CoFGO meeting which she attended recently in Austin.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT: Dr. Amacher reported that it appears our budget will be lower for the next biennium for the following reasons:

1. Our enrollment is down this semester from the Spring of 92 and this Spring (93) semester is the semester to count for formula funding. This decline will cost us 1.6 million dollars.

2. The cap placed on graduate credit hours will cause a decline in budget. There is a Senate Bill to limit the number of graduate student credit hours that get counted for funding - post masters to 120 in the first year of the next biennium, 110 in the second year of the next biennium and 100 in the first year of the following biennium. Any student credit hours over that amount will not be funded. We were not bad offenders. Some institutions will lose about nine million dollars in the biennium by this count. We will lose about $900,000 dollars. There is also a position in the house to restrict any funding for undergraduate students at 148 hours. We don't know what impact this will have on us.


Dr. Amacher mentioned that there is also a bill to not allow employees to accrue "frequent flyer miles" but that they would have to be turned in to the State. Dr. Amacher stated that he has not seen that bill yet.

Dr. Amacher discussed his intention to expand his Staff Meetings to include other personnel. The first expansion included the Athletic Director, the Affirmative Action Officer and the Internal Auditor who report directly to the President, and the president of the Faculty Senate. The group will expand over time as Dr. Amacher invites persons to attend. This group will be called the "President's Advisory Committee" and they will meet every other week on Wednesdays.

Dr. Amacher reported that an Ad Hoc Committee for Faculty Governance which includes 14 members has been appointed. Mary Ridgway will chair this committee and they are charged with preparing a recommendation by the end of the Fall, 1993 semester, to give to the new Provost in terms of suggestions as to what the ideal faculty structure should be at UTA. The members of this committee are Linda Rouse, Sociology, Charles Smith, Electrical Engineering, Cathieleen Jordan, Social Work, Tom Petry, Engineering, Tom Hall, Accounting, Rodney Hissong, Urban Studies, Peter Rosen, College of Science, Dale Story, Political Science, Renee Stetson, Teacher Education, Mary Whiteside, Information Systems & Management Sciences, Elfriede Foster, Architecture, David Tees, Architecture, Mary E. Jones, Nursing. There will be a Faculty Governance Workshop on April 16 at UTA and the two facilitators will be Dr. Francie Frederick, Associate Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and W. David Maxwell, retired from both Clemson and A & M who now works with Southern Accreditation. They will meet with the Ad Hoc Committee in the morning. Dr. Frederick will meet with the Staff Advisory Council at noon and an open Faculty Forum will be held in the afternoon to which the press will be invited.

Some discussion followed concerning the graduate and undergraduate hours funding caps.

**REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT BAKER:** Dr. W. A. Baker stated that there were a lot of things designed to save the State money and that the graduate and undergraduate hours funding caps were two of these items. There are some items that will affect UTA, for example the state wide review of the Masters and Undergraduate programs. He had received from the coordinating board a printout of so-called "low productivity" degree programs. UTA has only two undergraduate and perhaps only six graduate programs in this category. He does not anticipate that we will have much problem. The tracking of these situations will be a problem and the bookkeeping will be enormous. This type program would be very difficult to administer. The argument that implementation will be greater than the savings will probably kill this bill. Dr. Baker stated he hoped this would be the case.

Dr. Baker stated that the Senate Bill to drop the state contribution to ORP from 7.31% to 6% concerned only UT Austin and Texas A & M. The current version leaves the contribution at 7.31% for all the other institutions.

Dr. Baker reported that the last of the five Library candidate interviews was complete and he anticipated a report from the search committee within a couple of weeks.

Dr. Amacher mentioned two budget items. 1) The 3% raise which was given to all employees in December, 1992 must come from other parts of the budget because this was not included in the allocation for this biennium by the legislature. 2) The universities will no longer receive their budget allocations yearly but will receive them by the month. This will result in a loss of interest because the universities will not be able to bank the money and draw interest. This may sound trivial, but in a 100 million dollar budget, this is 5 million dollars that we won't have.

Vice President Baker stated that there is a cash flow problem with the university. Since a lot of the money is tied up in salaries that we pay monthly, that part won't be adversely affected. However, since there is a tendency to spend the
capital allocations early in the year, there will have to be some thought as to how to pay for these capital acquisitions, since there won’t be a twelve-month appropriation in September. He does not know the consequence, but assumes there will be some. Dr. Baker stated that there had been a concern that some salaries would be reduced in an effort to recover the money expended for the 3% raise. He assured us this would not be the case.

Dr. Ridgway asked Dr. Baker if there would be a possibility of having faculty and student regent members. She understood that there had been some House Bills concerning this. Dr. Baker replied that there had been approximately five bills introduced but they had gotten nowhere. He feels that this year the chances are somewhat better than they had been in the past in that the persons introducing the bills had compromised to make the students non-voting members of the regents.

Senator Gaupp asked about the legal status of the Legislature mandating expenses without appropriating money. He wondered if this situation would have a future in the courts. Dr. Baker replied that in his personal opinion there was no future in the courts, that this would not be challenged because the Legislature could do what it wanted.

Senator Delores Holder questioned if we could campaign to gain funding from the state lottery since there was so much money there. Dr. Amacher responded that his feelings were that if this were possible, then there would simply be less money appropriated from the State Legislature. He stated there were too few revenues for the budgets and too many things going on to spread the money around. Dr. Baker stated that any money from the lottery goes into the state treasury and that one of the problems the State has now is that there are too many dedicated funds. His feeling is that the Legislature will not go into another dedicated fund (i.e., to dedicate part of the lottery money to education).

Dr. Amacher stated that there are actually only two things that would increase funding: 1) that the economy improve enough to increase revenue flow or 2) there is another source of tax revenue.

Senator George Green mentioned that the TFA had distributed copies of a letter concerning the reduction of the ORP from 7.31% to 6% and that concerned faculty members could write to the State Representatives with questions, concerns to Box 2910, Austin, Texas 78768.

There were no further questions for Vice President Baker.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Senator John Beehler - Special Projects - informed the Senate that his committee had discussed the matter that had been raised regarding poor quality of faculty produced materials for students. They investigated and decided that the problem was not of such a wide-spread nature that it required a University-wide procedure. The Committee concluded that if such problems arose they should be handled at the department level, that the peers in a particular discipline were the most capable evaluators of those kinds of situations.

Senator Duvaj - Tenure, Academic Freedom & Responsibilities Committee - The committee had a request from Professor Ladde, Math Department, who felt his academic freedom had been violated when the grades of certain students in one of his classes were changed without his involvement. The Committee invited Professor Ladde to meet with them on March 9, 1993 at 12:30 p.m. Senator Duvaj stated that Professor Ladde did not reply to the invitation nor did he show up at the meeting, but he sent a memo to Senator Duvaj and the other members of the committee in which he summarized his position and made the following requests of the Committee: 1) that he be provided with appropriate university guidelines, rules and regulations for processing a hearing; 2) that he be informed at least three weeks prior to a hearing date; and 3) that a report of the committee be provided for the April Faculty Senate meeting.
Senator Duwaji stated the Tenure, Academic Freedom & Responsibilities Committee believes very strongly that unless Professor Ladde shows willingness to cooperate, the committee may not be able to proceed with the task of determining the merits of the allegations.

There were no other Committee reports.

OLD BUSINESS: Charles Miller was not able to attend the meeting to speak about the payroll, deductions, etc. Senator John Beehler reported that he had spoken with Charles Miller and had prepared a list of "items" which would affect an employee's net pay. These were circulated to the Senate members. Senator Beehler suggested that anyone who has questions about payroll deductions, etc. should contact either Charles Miller or Chris McKee in Budgets and Payroll. Some discussion followed concerning this matter.

Senator Green asked about the Equity Committee report for the Class Action suit from last summer. Senator B. Frye responded that he had information on the report and he would provide it to Senator Green.

NEW BUSINESS: Senator Walker moved that the Faculty Senate newsletter, Faculty Focus, be approved for distribution to all faculty members on a one-issue per semester basis, at the cost of approximately $150 per semester. With a second from Senator Mary E. Jones the motion was approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Senator Beehler reported that the Nominating Committee (Senator Beehler, Senator L. Porter, Senator T. Petry, Senator K. Jordan, Senator P. Gerardot) would meet briefly following the adjournment of the Senate. He also stated that anyone interested in running for office should inform him or one of the members of the Nominating Committee. Dr. Girardot asked the Academic Liaison Committee to meet briefly with him following adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Burley Walker
Faculty Senate Secretary

Sandra Warner
Recorder and Transcriber