MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

The Faculty Senate met in regular session on Wednesday, March 11, 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 B. Walker requested the minutes be amended in order to retain a direct quote of Tony Baker in his reference to refusing receipt of some mid-term grades past the posted deadline, to wit: "Well I guess we put the screws to the tardies this time." Motion that the quote be included was made by Senator Myktyyn and seconded. Motion passed. The minutes were so amended.

REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN: Chairman Bernstein introduced Jeff McIlroy of Counseling and Career Development. Mr. McIlroy distributed information concerning Career Day which will be held in the Bluebonnet Ballroom of the University Center, March 25, 1992, 10:00 - 3:00. There will be 88 companies and organizations participating offering a variety of careers to the students. He explained that there are both full and part-time opportunities available, including internships and co-ops, and asked the professors to make the students aware of this and to encourage their participation in Career Day. Last year over 2500 students attended and the hope is for an even greater number this year.

The Chairman announced that he had received a memo from Donna Darovich asking for a volunteer to act as honorary basketball coach. He recalled his tenure in this capacity with pleasure and assured the group that it was a thoroughly enjoyable experience. He asked that any interested party contact Bill Ross.

A further announcement concerned the appointing of a Nominating Committee. Chairman Bernstein announced that he had asked Charles Smith, of Electrical Engineering, to serve as Convener. Other members of the committee are: James Wood of Communications, Nancy Tolbert of Nursing, Pete Giradot of Chemistry and Pete Myktyyn of Information Systems. He invited those who wished to make a nomination to contact one of the members of the committee. Chairman Bernstein told the group he felt his two-year tenure as Chairman was sufficient and that he would step aside to enable another to serve. He expressed his satisfaction with his term of office and thanked the Senate members for their support and cooperation.
Chairman Bernstein brought to the attention of the Senate a problem that had been identified and discussed at his Departmental faculty meeting, involving students who have not met pre-requisite requirements registering in classes which have this stipulation. With the increase of students and the diminishing of course offerings classes are filled, often with many students who have not met the requirement, denying those who qualify. This does not become apparent at registration. Chairman Bernstein suggested that there should be a way to 'flag' those students at registration by computer. He said he was not suggesting any student be denied, but that the qualified student should have first consideration.

Senator Walker reported this problem also exists in his department and that it takes a great amount of time to make these determinations.

Senator Ridgway opined that this should be handled at the advising level. Some courses are posted as available 'with consent of instructor.'

Senator Stegall reminded the group that some classes are very small.

Senator Jones suggested there is a way through Data Processing to solve the problem and that he would be happy to show any who are interested how to access the required information.

Finally, Chairman Bernstein told the new members of the Senate to contact Marcy Sanders in reference to their obtaining name plates to display at subsequent meetings.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAIRMAN: There were no questions for the Chairman.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT: President Nedderman noted the fact that Chairman Bernstein enjoyed his tenure as Honorary Basketball Coach and that he had commented on the inadequate facility. Dr. Nedderman stated that it wasn't as bad as the publicity it receives. However, he expressed his great disappointment that the plans for construction of a 10,000-person Special Event Center were halted close to the time of final approval in 1977, when the constitutionality of the ad valorem tax was challenged in a suit which eliminated our source of funding for many years; no solution has yet been found.

He reported that the construction of the Science Building will begin shortly, the construction of the tunnel will be underway by summer, and the installation of the elevator in the Physical Education building will be completed in the near future. The renovation of Ransom Hall is approved for 1993.
Dr. Nedderman noted that chaotic conditions prevail in Austin relative to the matter of strategic plans and performance-based budgeting. Dr. Baker and other colleagues have attended workshops there in connection with this situation. Key persons in the Legislature want certain segments of performance measured, which amounts to performance-based budgeting funding. The UT System, from the office of Jim Duncan through Joe Stafford, is attempting to devise a reasonable solution. We must submit, by April 1, 1992, general goals that would comprise a strategic plan toward our objectives for the future.

President Nedderman deferred further discussion of this matter to Vice President Baker.

**QUESTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT:** There were no questions to the President.

**FURTHER REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN:** No further remarks by the Chairman.

**REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT BAKER:** Dr. Baker said he was of the opinion that most of the members of the Senate were familiar with the formula system regarding how higher education has been funded. He told them that he had been involved with the procedure for the past fifteen years and had recently chaired the Faculty Salary Formula Committee which generates over 50% of formula for higher education. He stated that everyone is unhappy with the formula system from the Coordinating Board to the Legislature. The shortage of funds has produced a very delicate situation. At this point they are seeking a new basis for funding higher education and other State agencies.

Dr. Baker distributed a packet which diagramed the discretionary spending in the State Budget for the fiscal year 1991. He reviewed the information with the group and pointed out that the largest increases have been in the area of Welfare and Criminal Justice, which involve court orders and federal mandates. Higher education on the other hand falls into the category of discretionary funds. When there is a shortfall in the State budget the discretionary area is naturally the source that is most accessible, and since we represent 63% of these discretionary funds our budgets suffer. Under these circumstances there must be rationalizations for cuts as no one wants to be considered responsible for regarding higher education as less important than other entities. To rationalize cutting, the institutions of higher education are criticized for not using their funds wisely. Dr. Baker further commented that he didn't believe that higher education actually has any enemies in the Legislature, though the rhetoric might indicate otherwise.

Chairman Bernstein noted the declining percent of State funding for higher education.

Dr. Baker explained that a new system has not been established. There is fear regarding transition, and there are political considerations. Eliminating the existing system and instituting a new concept which may prove to be even more politically oriented could prove to be a further problem for higher education funding. He predicted 'higher education bashing' in the next Legislature.
A discussion on the implications and various possibilities followed.

Senator Weed, in referring back to Dr. Nedderman's comments, asked for an example of performance criteria.

Vice President Baker responded that examples of such criteria could include: a percentage of expenditure to administration, retention rates, minority enrollment, graduation, and pass rates on standardized licensing exams.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Senator Dunn, reporting for the Presidential Search Committee, informed the Senate the list of finalist candidates has been sent to the Board of Regents. He announced that it was an open process and he had high expectations concerning the final results. There were twelve individuals personally interviewed from whom the six finalists were chosen. Professor Dunn expressed his great satisfaction, especially in view of the fact that five of the six finalists were his top choices.

A blind, in-depth screening was conducted. The process was color blind which eliminated possibilities of racial discrimination. The paper screen was very successful. The committee is pleased and will meet again after the candidates visit the campus.

Senator Beeehler asked if any of the finalists have a background in a UTA-type school.

Professor Dunn assured him that all have had involvement with, and exposure to, large universities. This became a facet of the final process. All of the candidates were questioned on their position in minority recruitment; all finalists were sensitive to the issues and had concrete ideas concerning the situation.

Senator Porter asked when and how the faculty would have opportunity to interact with the candidates.

Senator Dunn explained that there is no open process for this. It was discussed and rejected.

Senator Cantwell injected that he thought these people were supposed to be available.

Professor Dunn said to his knowledge there would be no open forum.

Chairman Bernstein stated that he wished to acknowledge the efforts of Senator Dunn and the committee.

A motion was made by Senator Green to commend Professor Dunn for his efforts. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.
Senator Green reported on the proposed changes in the Endowed Chairs and Professorship policy, copies of which were distributed to the Senators. Senator Green highlighted the proposed changes.

A discussion for clarification followed.

Senator Green moved that the changes be accepted, Senator Petry seconded, and the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Dr. Lowry addressed the issue of a vote taken in the last meeting concerning the copy of the budget in the Archives on the 6th floor of the Library.

He explained that all documents on the 6th floor were archival documents and should not be removed. They are considered manuscripts and the Library is responsible for all of them. He assured the Senators that a copy of the current budget is always available. He asked that the motion passed in the meeting of October 16, advising the Director of Libraries to inaugurate the same procedure on the 6th floor that is in effect on the 1st floor, be rescinded. It is important that a single copy of all documents be maintained in the archives and not be taken from the 6th floor location.

Senator Cowan asked if there was a possibility that photocopies could be provided.

Dr. Lowry responded that under the present circumstances it was not.

A discussion of possible solutions followed.

Vice President Baker stated that the Library would be furnished two copies of the budget which would be a simple way to change the policy.

The 6th floor archives would be protected and a copy would be available in a more convenient location.

The motion was made and seconded to rescind the previous motion under these circumstances. The motion carried, there being only one negative vote.

NEW BUSINESS: Senator Burkhart addressed the problem of the potential for legal action against the university and possibly individual professors in relation to student injuries on field trips. He expressed his desire to be informed of rights and responsibilities in these matters.

Ms Francie Fredericks, an Austin attorney in Systems, has agreed to come and clarify the position of institutions and individuals at a convenient time. She will make an hour-long statement in an attempt to put things into perspective.
Senator Burkhart initiated a motion to schedule a meeting with Ms Fredericks. Motion seconded.

Vice President Baker suggested that the meeting be scheduled at the conclusion of the next Faculty Senate meeting and be adjourned to a larger room, as many on campus would be interested in attending.

Chairman Bernstein asked Senator Burkhart to schedule a meeting.

Senator Burkhart agreed.

Chairman Bernstein noted that it was a possibility that the meeting could not be scheduled following the next Faculty Senate meeting and that the motion needed flexibility.

A substitute motion was made that the meeting would be scheduled at an appropriate time. Motion was seconded and carried.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** There were no announcements.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned at 3:45.

Respectfully submitted:

Lana Rings
Secretary of the Faculty Senate
C. Florence Zuefeldt, Recorder