Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Remarks by the Chair

Chairman Hissing reported on the trip to Austin. No proposals have been accepted by the Board of Regents. Regarding Legislative Bills, the status is slow. However, because the bills may never become law, we need to move ahead.

Copies of the “Report of the University Evaluation of Teaching in the U.T. System” were passed out for review.

Chairman Hissing reported on the Undergraduate Senate meeting.

It was noted that there will be no more “friendly amendments.”

Remarks by the President

Special items at the Legislative session have been included in Article XI, including Hold Harmless Funding at seven million dollars.

A proposal from Academic Standards Committee will work toward increasing enrollment, recruiting, and admissions. The financial impact will rest with the University. However, it is taking a risk.

John McElroy reported on the Coordinating Board which lasted from the Fall of 1996 to January 1997. The Ph.D. program in Humanities apparently has discrepancies. Evidently, we offered some classes without authorization. The process was discussed. The Coordinating Board wants the finished document proposing ways of correcting this problem by April 15. The need to offer more than the umbrella Ph.D. in Liberal Arts was noted.

President Witt reiterated the need for a liberated series of Ph.D. offerings in Liberal Arts.

Remarks by the Provost

No comments were offered by the Provost.

Open Discussion

Senator Fairbanks questioned the Humanities program.

Senator Roemer asked about the process committee for submitting courses for the Ph.D. program. Senator McElroy answered that the courses are put together in a package system.
Senator Mathis informed the members that he had received a memo yesterday to close thirty (30) accounts. He posed the question, "What will happen to the students' paychecks?" President Witt answered that the students will be paid.

Senator Devarajan asked what Hold Harmless funding means. The President answered that it involved money used by the department when enrollment is down.

Senator Earl wished to know what happens to benefits when an employee is terminated for cause. President Witt said he would get a statement to Chairman Hissing and have it E-mailed.

Senator Bradshaw asked President Witt, "How will Hold Harmless funding affect actual department budgets?" The President clarified earlier comments. He indicated that Hold Harmless moneys would flow immediately and directly to faculty.

Senator Amster commented that the size of the Ph.D. programs should not be a major factor when considering having a program eliminated when there is faculty. President Witt respondent that those factors will be taken into consideration.

Senator Ellwood made a motion to amend the agenda, wherein "Periodic..." was to be changed to before. The motion was seconded and passed. Another motion was made to bring it back onto the floor. The motion was seconded and passed.

President Witt turned the meeting over to Committee Chair Moore.

Senator Dunn suggested that the word "review" be changed to "evaluation" in Amendment II. Senator Young suggested a minor pronoun change.

A vote was taken on Amendment I. The Amendment passed.

Amendment III

Senator Cantwell asked about a letter required for non-tenured faculty at initial hiring. President Witt responded that he didn't know. However, he would get specific answers and pass the information along.

A vote was taken on Amendment III. The Amendment passed.

Amendment IV

Senators Wright and Walker had questions concerning the Amendment. Senator Chrynowsky proposed to change "may" to "shall". The motion carried.

Senator Dunn suggested the Amendment be separated into two separate parts. The motion failed.

Senator Moore stated that as long as we do not tie the hands of the University, certain questions could be addressed and possibly pass. The President added, "As it stands now, the document will not stand."

Senator Dunn suggested that new amendments be e-mailed prior to Faculty Senate meetings.

The Amendment was then open for discussion. Amendment D2 passed.

Regarding D3, Senator Bradshaw proposed to strike the first sentence of 2D3. A vote was taken and the motion passed.
A move was made by Senator Wright for specific Regents Rules to be added. The motion was seconded and passed.

Senator Dunn indicated that he was not in favor of this.

A vote was taken for Amendment IV. The Amendment passed.

Senator Ellwood passed around copies of II.D.5 and II.D.6. A motion was made by Senator Amster and seconded by Senator Rye to split the two sentences in II.D.6 into two amendments. The motion was defeated.

Senator Amster moved to remove the first phrase “before removed by cause . . . .” in II.D.5. The motion passed.

Senator Roemer voiced reservations about the amendment. Senator Wright spoke concerning Version 13. Senator Bradshaw moved to amend the Amendment II.D.5 by striking the last sentence. Senator Amster agreed with this.

**Version XIII**

Amendments to Version XIII were discussed. Senator Walker dissented and felt that some of these should be expressed in a separate statement. Senator Rodnitsky suggested that the Faculty Senate not keep going over the same ground.

Senator Devarajaran moved that the second paragraph be amended. A motion was made and carried to add additions after line 15 in Version 13 of the Amendment. Senator Rodnitsky motioned to amend Version XIII by adding his statement as a last section of XIII.

A motion was seconded to open this for discussion. The motion carried. Senator Dunn suggested the Amendment eliminate the first sentence. A vote was taken. The motion passed to amend the Amendment. Senator Ellwood commented, “In light of these changes, . . . .”

Senators Bradshaw and Dunn made additional suggestions for amending the Amendment . . . . Senator Dunn’s motion carried. Senator Rodnitsky’s suggestions for amending the Amendment passed.

Senator Devarajaran motioned to amend the last part of the Preamble . . . . The motion carried.

A motion was made and passed to table Amendment, Version XIII.

Due to a lack of quorum, a motion was made to adjourn. The motion carried.

---

Minutes recorded by O. W. Patzoff.
Typist: RD Forrester