MINUTES - FACULTY SENATE
NOVEMBER 17, 1993

The Faculty Senate met in regular session on Wednesday, November 17, 1993 at 2:30 p.m. in Conference Room 4 of Davis Hall. Chairwoman Mary Ridgway presided and introduced Zeb Tidwell, Student Congress President, Wayne Carter of the Shorthorn and Mary Elaine Jones from Nursing as visitors.


APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the October 20 meeting were approved with a motion from Senator Girardot second from Senator Tolbert.

REMARKS BY THE CHAIR: Chair Ridgway reported that in the February agendas in Graduate Assembly, Undergraduate Assembly and Faculty Senate, the Ad Hoc on Governance Committee will be presenting Governance proposals and Grievance drafts. Information will be sent out before the February meeting allowing time for revisions before the final report. She reported also that she would be attending a meeting at the UT System on November 18-19 at which the results of the system-wide survey conducted last year would be released.

Vice President Tom Petry reported briefly on the Presidential Advisory Committee meeting held November 11. The committee had talked at length with Dr. Amacher and discussed the charge of that committee. The committee is able to communicate their concerns to the president in a smaller setting than a larger group such as the Senate. The committee had discussed several concerns relating to budgets, how money was allocated, etc. One of the items of concern involved the Regental Rule that he (Dr. Amacher) had the power to make changes in the HOP without consultation of faculty. He reported that Dr. Amacher did not feel that he would make any such changes without consultation with faculty and Senator Petry feels this will be the case and that the faculty will have opportunity to respond to any proposal of changes in the HOP. A luncheon meeting with the President has been set for January 21 and the senators are invited to submit any agenda items to be heard at this meeting. Dr. Ridgway assured them that they would be heard.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT: President Amacher was not in attendance.

Chair Ridgway reported that Provost Taylor would be delayed in arriving for the meeting, thus, the meeting would proceed with Committee Reports. She also urged the committees to contact her if they needed information, contact names, etc., in order to conduct their committee business.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Operating Procedures: Frank Weed spoke on behalf of this committee relaying that with the reorganization of faculty governance how much they could address problems, etc., in light of changes that might be made. Dr. Ridgway responded that they could address such things as "carry-over" from year to year, suggesting a "chair-elect" so that there would be experienced people in place to cover the six meetings in Austin and to be able to continue with the networking that is established. She suggested the committee look at terms of office, etc., that did not particularly deal with the governance model.

Academic Liaison - Tim McKinney reported that they had been charged with investigating faculty involvement in recruitment and retention of students. The committee has developed with Provost Taylor a survey about what is being done now in departments and has been sent out to chairs and program directors. This results of this survey will allow the committee to study the situation more closely.
Budget Liaison - Frank Weed reported that a meeting with Vice President for Business Affairs Dudley Wetsel was scheduled for November 19. At this time he had not information to report.

Ethics - Rod Hissong stated that had one case before them and a meeting was scheduled with the concerned parties.

Special Projects - John Beehler reported his committee had met and reviewed at UTA's prior policy on the review of academic administrators, along with both UT Austin's and UT Pan American's Handbook of Operating Procedures and their method of review for these administrators. The committee is in the process of drafting an initial version for consideration.

Student Services Liaison - Jill Trask Cardenas presented four resolutions developed by the committee. These resolutions were discussed at length, the Senators voiced concern in some areas, offered ideas and suggestions for others. Zeb Tidwell noted that Resolution 4 was a result of Resolutions 1 and 2. Cathleen Jordan, Social Work, noted that Social Work is conducting a study relating to summer sessions (5 1/2 weeks and 11 weeks) and would be willing to share the information. A "straw vote" was taken to determine if the Faculty Senate thought these were issues that this committee should continue to pursue. The resolutions and their votes are as follows:

Resolution #1: Block Courses (3-hours): It is recommended that three-hour block undergraduate courses not be scheduled between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Requests for exceptions to be considered by Dean's Council, or another appropriate body, when there are educationally sound reasons for doing so.

Rationale: Courses that meet for three-hour blocks once per week prohibit students from taking three classes that would meet at that same time. VOTE: 29 For - 0 opposed

Resolution #2: Times for Classes: It is recommended that Monday-Wednesday-Friday classes meet for 50 minutes, traditionally on the hour. Tuesday-Thursday classes meet for 80 minutes beginning at 8:00 a.m. and at 1 1/2 hour intervals. All undergraduate Thursday classes meet through 4:00 p.m.

Rationale: Many students complain that courses that meet at odd times prohibit them from taking classes that are offered on a more traditional schedule. Insofar as most of our students are taking classes in more than one department, it would help them if all departments followed the same time schedules. VOTE: 25 For - 0 opposed

Resolution #3: Afternoon Classes: The Faculty Senate supports the offering of a "Complement of Core Courses" in the afternoon hours. It is recommended that this afternoon core of courses continue to be offered for at least the next two school years, through the spring of 1996.

Rationale: Many of our students are unable to get all of the required core courses that they need in a timely fashion. Offering alternate schedules for classes allows students more opportunities. In addition, scheduling afternoon classes makes better use of the UTA physical plant. VOTE: 23 For - 1 Opposed

Resolution #4: Enrichment hour: It is recommended that enrichment hour be extended to include Mondays and Fridays from 12:00 noon to 12:50 p.m., that the enrichment hour on Wednesday be changed from 12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m. to 12:00 noon - 12:50 p.m. and that the scheduling of classes during enrichment hour requires the written approval of the Provost.

Rationale: Many students take advantage of the enrichment hour to hold organizational meetings. Students participate in more than one organization. The Faculty Senate would be supporting Student Congress, as it has just passed a similar resolution. VOTE: 22 For - 3 Opposed

Jill Cardenas discussed some long range planning ideas of the committee which included adding some questions to a survey to students to be administered by the Research and Development Office in 1994; taking a poll of students and community as to future needs and desires; Weekend College options; conducting a survey of needs through local newspapers. She invited input from the Senators.
Research and Development: Michael Moore stated that his committee was studying the elimination of faculty and abolishment of programs and solicited information from anyone who had knowledge of other universities who had abolished programs.

Remarks from the Provost: Provost Taylor spoke of a summit on issues in higher education which he attended in Corpus Christi. The summit was a series of panels of subjects - one panel which made an impression on him was Media in Higher Education. This panel was comprised of several people from the print and electronic media who individually and collectively presented their views on the higher education professorate. He was stunned at the negative outpouring on the professorate. It is his opinion that we (higher education) are losing our positive image in the public eye. The media was describing public perceptions (along with their own perceptions) which were "aloof and above being accountable." He feels we should respond to some of these perceptions and cease to be passive. We need to change the perceptions of the media.

Dr. Taylor remarked about the Charette which is on the schedule for UTA. He introduced this as a marathon - all night planning session - a session from which a mission statement can be developed which will give us future directions. This is a planning session which provides an opportunity for everyone to be heard and will provide an exchange of ideas process. These ideas can be further developed by a more concentrated planning process which can carry us into the 21st century.

Questions for the Provost: Senator Antoniades voiced his concern about issues of the past that had not been dealt with and requested that the Provost's office request copies of the Senate minutes from the past in order to identify issues that are very vital and important.

Provost Taylor stated that he can't take on responsibilities for the past, but that the process he envisions will incorporate concerns from the past. He stated that the open process (Charette for exchange of ideas, debates will assist in the process of identifying concerns and providing a feeling of cohesiveness and assured Senator Antoniades he could submit in writing some issues for discussion (Senator Antoniades will be on leave of absence during the spring semester).

Senator Wood inquired as to the criticism of the media wondering if it was addressed to higher education in general or directly to UTA. Dr. Taylor replied there were nearly 400 institutions of higher education represented at the summit and that the comments were not directed specifically at UTA.

Zeb Tidwell asked how intercollegiate athletics plays a role in higher education in the media's eyes. Dr. Taylor responded that the media tends to cover the sensational and not the other when it comes to news coverage (i.e., UT Austin recruits a star football player and it makes the front pages but UT Arlington recruits a National Merit Scholar as a student and the story is buried deep in the paper).

Senator Mike Moore inquired as to progress concerning bomb threats and the policy for vacating a building. Dr. Taylor responded that a policy was being circulated to deans and faculty and he was waiting on responses.

Senator Stegall questioned the Charette - the format, when, etc. Dr. Taylor responded that it was still in the planning stage but hoped it would be held the end of January. The sessions will be open to anyone and will probably be a Friday night through Sunday night. Other discussion followed concerning the image, perceptions, etc. of the faculty.

Dr. Taylor exited from the meeting.

Old Business: None
NEW BUSINESS: Senator Walker reported on the CoFGO meeting which he and Dr. Ridgway has recently attended. The feeling was "bad news all around". There was a feeling of "They vs. Us" - "They" the administrators and "Us" the faculty. Dr. Ridgway remarked on the message delivered by Kenneth Ashworth - that there is no money for higher education and funding won't change even if more money becomes available for the over-all state budgets.

Catheleen Jordan presented a resolution to the Senate:

Whereas, gender-specific language has been removed from the first portion of the graduate and undergraduate catalogues, and Whereas, throughout both the graduate and undergraduate catalogues gender-biased language still remains, for example: (1) "chairman" is used rather than "chair", (2) students are referred to as "he", and (3) such course titles as "Emergence of Mankind" are found.

Therefore, it is resolved that gender biased and gender-specific language will be removed from the graduate and undergraduate catalogues and other University of Texas at Arlington publications as they come up for revision.

Motion from Jill Cardenas and second from Mike Moore - passed 20 For.

Chair Ridgway noted that in a Presidential Advisory Council meeting, Dr. Amacher has said we are lacking in administrators at UTA and will be hiring more.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jill Trask Cardenas
Secretary

Sandra Warner Hooten
Recorder/Transcriber