MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

The Faculty Senate met in regular session on Wednesday, October 16, 1991, at 2:30 p.m. in Conference Room 4, Davis Hall. Chairman I. Bernstein presided.


APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Senator Burley Walker asked to correct the minutes to reflect his presence in Senate meeting of September 25, 1991. Minutes were so amended. There being no other corrections minutes were approved by voice vote.

REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN: Chairman Bernstein thanked the members of the Senate for their cooperation in selecting committees. Senator Herrmann asked to be added to Committee of Operating Procedures.

Senator Mykytyn complimented Secretary and Recorder on the speed with which the minutes were produced and distributed. Compliment was acknowledged with thanks.

Chairman Bernstein deferred his time to Professor Dunn representing the Presidential Search Committee. Professor Dunn solicited the input of his colleagues in determining qualities and characteristics the committee should seek in candidates in their search for the new University President. He also asked them to share advice and concerns in this area. The committee will select and interview the final group of applicants, resulting in the selection, by majority vote, of a list of several candidates which the Advisory Committee will submit to The Board of Regents. Professor Dunn allayed the persistent rumor that the Committee would not see the final group selected. The Committee indeed will interview the applicants before the number is reduced to the final five or six candidates. It is empowered to select the best candidates to submit to the Board of Regents.

Senator Mykytyn inquired as to the number of applications thus far received.

Professor Dunn informed the Senate there had been approximately one hundred applicants, some of whom have since withdrawn. The Committee is still recruiting applicants. Professor Dunn explained screening procedure, noting that from initial applications only the most highly qualified are considered. Upon the elimination of the applications which do not meet the criteria, a procedure of research is initiated, which results in the selection of those most qualified and most compatible with the needs of this University. This procedure produces the 'cream of the crop' on paper; only then does the interviewing begin.

Senator Weed asked if the final number of candidates would number only five or ten.
Professor Dunn responded that it would depend upon the interviews, although that particular aspect had not been discussed.

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

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
President Nedderman announced centralized travel service had been dropped, to the relief and satisfaction of many Professors, most of whom were able to find lower fares and better travel arrangements. It had been thought that this service would become mandatory for the UT system, as it is for State agencies, but fortunately the Universities were exempted.

At the meeting of the Regents the cooperative arrangement with the University in Riga, Latvia was approved. This corresponds to the Ukrainian agreement instigated by Charles McDowell. These arrangements were negotiated prior to the upheaval in the Soviet Union. We are the only University in this country that has an academic affiliation with any of the Republics of the Soviet Union. This semester we have four Ukrainian students in an exchange program here on campus. While a particular discipline can initiate a cooperative arrangement, we have what constitutes a flexible standard form in that any discipline can embark on this authority with the approval of the Coordinating Board. We will see more and more global education. Currently we have the London Semester, the Texas International Consortium, Architecture’s program in Rome, Art in the Mediterranean, and the Biology Summer Camp in Guatemala.

Also at the Regents meeting we received our annual appropriation from the Permanent University Fund. Customarily they have set aside $10 million per year for Library and Equipment plus $10 million for Repair and Rehabilitation to be distributed among the components. This year it was raised to $11.5 million for each category and should escalate to $15 million in the future. There was also a new allocation of $2.36 million from PUF. To date we have received $77 million from PUF funding. The one-million dollar renovation of Ransom Hall was approved and will go to the Coordinating Board. Ransom Hall is the oldest building on campus dating back to 1919. Also approved was the project of the replacement of the 2,000 linear ft. utility tunnel at $3.9 million which we must finance on our own. This too will come to the Coordinating Board in late October. If approved this project will begin early next year. It will necessitate tearing through the center of the campus and will be a be major inconvenience for some time. The construction will run from the Science Building to Brazos Hall with a spur to the proposed site of the new Science building and another to the Thermal Energy building. This is to replace 900 to 1000 ft of the deteriorating forty-five-year-old tunnel. Ultrasonic tests determined that the steam pipes retain only 50% of their original thickness, which produces a dangerous situation. Too, the rebuilding will afford a far more satisfactory plan of heating and cooling constituting good conservation. This project must be done.

Another project to be considered at the October meeting will be the new Science building, which will be located east of the present Science building across the North-South Mall in the parking lot area. This includes the site of the old Women’s Gymnasium, scheduled to be razed. Phase I is to be 56,750 sq. ft., and Phase II, projected for the future, 118,000 sq. ft., planned now so that it will be compatible with the Phase I facility. These plans were to have come to the Coordinating Board at an earlier time, but they asked to defer as they would not approve any new degree, building or construction plans which might add to the burdens of the State.
There is a chance for approval of the new Science building. Razing the Women's Gym will take 21,000 sq.ft. off the existing inventory, and disposing of the University President's home would give us an additional 5,000 to 6,000 sq.ft. off inventory, thereby providing us with half of the needed square footage for the Science building. When presented with these facts and figures, it is possible that we will gain the approval of the Committee.

The question of renovating the existing building is not feasible. There are two doctoral granting departments which have outside sponsored research of 1.5 million dollars per year and need adequate space for this research activity and for classrooms. Also the adding of more hoods in 1983 in the existing building caused a humidity problem which would cost $3 to $4 million to remedy. The better solution would be to use the $4 million toward a new facility and deactivate enough hoods in the old building to alleviate the humidity problem, while in the process adding 100 hoods, needed in high research areas, in the new facility.

The annual allocation from PUF was $2.36 million. In Repair and Rehabilitation we received $98,000 toward a new boiler in the Thermal Energy Building. We cannot add more new buildings without this additional boiler. We received $762,000 for Phase III of the Library renovation, completing the final phase. However, this past year a Consultant spent six months conducting a detailed study of our Library. The resulting report indicated that within the next four to five years our Library will be woefully inadequate. Following the completion of the renovating and building projects, our next vital need is to double the size and capacity of our Library. In the second category, Equipment for Library, we received $1.5 million from PUF, of which $750,000 will be used for academic computing and $750,000 for Library Operation.

QUESTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT:
Senator B. Walker stated that he had no quarrel with the increase in means for operating computer resources, but the School of Business has given up one third of its classroom space for labs. He asked if there is a saturation point where no more terminals can be installed because of lack of classroom space.

President Nedderman explained that he needed to look at the strategic plan and that he had no ready response to address that particular situation. He stated that part of the problem stems from the standard for space which was determined by the Coordinating Board a number of years ago. Their decisions were based on the space intensive nature of programs at the institutions. The needs have since changed. As we continue to grow we have more and more specialized needs. The areas of Nursing, Science, Engineering, Architecture, Chemistry, and Library are all space intensive, and these specialized needs are not satisfied by the general criteria. This will be a factor in the future.

Senator Ridgway inquired as to the UTA policy concerning accessibility for the physically disabled.

President Nedderman responded that our policy is one of long standing. In 1975-76 UTA was cited by Governor Briscoe as the outstanding State Agency in removing barriers to the handicapped. The University adopted the policy to make this University totally accessible to the handicapped. All new facilities are planned with these needs included. There are plans to install an elevator in the P.E. building in the near future.

Senator Smith alerted us to be aware of safety factors in emergency situations.

Senator Mykytyn requested a breakdown of the $750,000 for ACS funds.
President Nedderman commented that the committee had this information, but he did not.

Senator Weed voiced his concern regarding the approval of degree programs, asking if the President could project when this might take place.

President Nedderman explained that it was difficult to predict, as there is no definite time frame for approval and implementation. It is possible that the topic will be addressed this year but it is not predictable. Through the years we have kept our degree programs 'waiting in line' for the window of opportunity to open. Currently the priority is the Masters Degree in Anthropology which has been approved by the Board of Regents and is awaiting action by the Coordinating Board.

Senator Wood made inquiry concerning the MA in Communications.

President Nedderman said he believed that it had been approved. He commented that the area of Fine Arts has been neglected in the awarding of MA degree programs. The President expressed great pride in the accomplishments of the Music Department and reiterated the fact that they deserved the MA degree. He indicated that the Coordinating Board needs to re-evaluate the charge of 'area duplication'.

Senator Porter thanked President Nedderman for the landscaping on Cooper.

The President said he would give his "Landscaping is academically relevant" speech: "Always leave green strips and plant trees". So far it has worked very well. Compatible landscape is planned with every new building erected.

Senator Stegall also commented on landscaping, asking the name of the designer and whether or not we would lose any trees with the tunnel project.

President Nedderman explained in the tunnel project there were many persons from the Physical Plant who studied this problem, including the landscape architect Gene Strickle. In considering the possibilities they found there will be some tree loss which cannot be avoided but the loss will be minimal. There are two Live Oak trees in the path of the construction which will be salvaged. Lost trees will be replaced.

Senator Myktyyn remarked about the overgrowth of vegetation in the Mitchell Street Creek.

The President assured him it would be eliminated when the Cooper Street and Landscaping project is completed.

Senator Eisenfeld inquired as to what is happening concerning the apartments on Cooper and Mitchell.

President Nedderman said that the University had purchased that acreage for the future at a cost of $2.4 million. Since the original asking price was $9 million, we actually made a good bargain investment. There are no immediate plans for the property, so in the interim we will remove all concrete slabs and piers to restore it to a park-like condition. The University does not plan to put a parking lot on that site. Since parking is always an issue President Nedderman related that the Student Congress had recommended that freshmen be required to park in the Stadium area and take the bus to the campus. This has not been officially presented. He commented that parking here is better than it is at some other universities. He recommended that the University build a parking garage on the west side of the campus to accommodate 600 to 1000 automobiles, to be owned and operated by the
University when this is feasible. A further item concerning parking, which was addressed by the President, was the unauthorized use of Handicap Spaces. He declared that there is no excuse for these places to be appropriated by persons other than the handicapped.

Senator Gintole recommended that the University have more trees and plants on campus, commenting that other Universities have more green areas than UTA.

The President assured the Senator that we do have a budget each year for beautification and as he had previously said, we have been gifted with some trees in memoriam, but purchasing trees is quite expensive. It had been suggested that the perimeter of the campus be planted with trees, and we have partially accomplished this, but such a project takes time.

Senator Rings questioned whether or not we will erect the signs on either end of Cooper as previously planned.

The President gave a definite affirmation that the monumental signs will be placed as part of the original project, but that project will postponed because of higher priorities in funding.

**REMARKS BY VICE-PRESIDENT BAKER**
The Vice-President is serving on a committee in Austin.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**
Academic Liaison Committee report:
Senator Girardot reported in the matter of the tabled motion from previous meeting presented by the Department of Foreign Languages, in reference to altering the grading system. The Committee voted not to recommend this change as there appeared to be no significant advantage to the student.

Senator Smith referred to University of New Mexico as an example. Over a period of four or five years they found no statistical advantage to such a system.

Senator B.Walker announced that Charles Knerr was elected Chairman of Budget and Liaison Committee. That Committee will meet today. The Equity Committee will meet on Friday of this week.

Senator Petry announced the Operating Procedures Committee will meet following this meeting.

Chairman Bernstein commended Senator Girardot for his response in expediting the meeting of the committee and bringing their report back to the Senate.

**OLD BUSINESS**
Senator Hermann observed that the Senate occasionally makes advisory recommendations and questioned whether or not there is any mechanism for forcefully presenting those recommendations.

Chairman Bernstein advised that there is no set procedure for this, but important issues could be presented in the form of a motion.

Senator Hermann stated for the record that he is again asking that the Math requirement be raised. He finds the present standards unacceptable.
Senator Holder related her experience with the Library procedure in obtaining copies of the Budget on the sixth floor. Senator Holder made a motion that the Faculty Senate advise the Director of Libraries to inaugurate the same procedure that is in effect on the first floor.

Senator Ridgway seconded.

Chair asked for a vote.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman delegated Senator Holder to inform library.

Senator Hermann expressed his opinion about the non-smoking restrictions on campus. He pointed out that, while he is not a smoker himself, some of the restrictions, such as not allowing persons to smoke in their own offices, are discriminatory.

President Nedderman agreed and said that UTA's original policy was good.

NEW BUSINESS
No new business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Senator Hermann asked for a meeting of the Special Projects Committee following Senate meeting.

Senator Girardot made motion that President Nedderman be presented with a plaque in gratitude for all he has given to this University.

Motion seconded by Senator Duwaji.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:
The meeting adjourned at 5:15 P.M.