

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

May 5, 1970

MINUTES

President Olson called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m. Senators not in attendance were:

Ruben V. Austin	Elizabeth D. Cloud	William Pulliam
James B. Heck	T. Allan Comp	Myron Sasser
Edward W. Comings	Howard Harlan	Robert E. Sheridan
Julio Acuna	Robert Hogenson	Robert W. Stegner
Val Arnsdorf	David E. Ingersoll	Edward A. Trabant
Peggy A. Bedingfield	James R. Krum	Ferd E. Williams
Elizabeth E. Bohning	David M. Nelson	John E. Worthen

I. BUSINESS

A. Student Strike

President Olson indicated that this meeting was called because we are not able to wait to discuss the issue of the student strike. He said that according to the constitution it is possible to call a meeting on short notice. We will deliberate in this meeting without an agenda. The Student Government Association is meeting concurrently to deliberate the call for a strike. The chair read the items that should be considered during this meeting. The items were as follows:

1. Strike - when, where, how.
2. Demand Boggs, Roth, and Williams to present views (expand to Stabler and du Pont)
3. Mass rally at May 11 faculty meeting
4. Student Center open twenty-four hours
5. Limit student organization
6. Support military aid sales ban
7. ROTC and defense contracts out
8. Support National Students Association to impeach Nixon

Mr. Shirley first read a telegram sent to President Nixon by President Trabant:

President Richard Nixon

I urge you to consider all possible means to bring to a peaceful end as soon as possible United States military involvement in Southeast Asia.

Immediate action on your part will do much to stem the alienation of American youth and its resulting possible dangers to our society.

(Signed) E. A. Trabant, President
University of Delaware

Mr. Shirley then made the following opening comments:

Sorry you could not all hear the speech at the Mental Health Association this noon. Dr. W. Walter Menninger, Staff Psychiatrist of The Menninger Foundation of Topeka, Kansas, and youngest member of the Presidential Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence, spoke on "Violence and the Young."

This is an age of violence. This generation of 20-year olds represents the flowering of the age of violence. Born in the age of Auschwitz, Hiroshima, and Nuremberg where violence was laid bare and where it was taught that individual conscience came before the law as a force of action. Raised on sensational mass media and a television that portrays violence as the normal role of both good men and bad men.

This is the most intelligent, best educated, most sensitive generation the world has produced. It has put its finger on the real human ills of our time: poverty, race, overpopulation, pollution, or war. It sees that the establishment has been particularly insensitive to these human problems; they appear inexorable and mechanical. This generation demands human solutions of these problems. If this establishment cannot produce, the establishment must go.

There is a generation gap which must be bridged. We must realize in dealing with youth that our prophecies will be self-fulfilling. If we anticipate unreason and violence, we shall probably get it. If we approach with expectation of maturity and judgment, we will likely get that.

We must (1) get involved with (relate to) the younger generation, (2) promote the efforts of youth to do something in their own behalf, (3) recognize that they are seriously concerned with our most significant and critical human problems. We must work with them in solving these problems.

These are truly critical days on the campus. Unrest about the Vietnam war was intensified by the extension into Cambodia. Demonstrations and symbolic strikes were heightened by the death of four students at Kent State. There is a general feeling that something must be done. The faculty must assume a leadership role in seeing that student action is positive and constructive.

We just don't know whether President Nixon's decision will prove right or wrong. We do know that President Nixon is responsible and that our views should be influential when such decisions are made. We don't want to take

hasty action that will jeopardize American soldiers in Vietnam or Cambodia. There will be tomorrow and an accounting for such decisions. We must prepare our students for this tomorrow and show them how to influence decisions.

The University should provide leadership. There is no leadership in following Princeton, Temple, or Penn; no leadership in dramatic but futile gestures. A strike against the University only delays education and hurts ourselves and defeats our purposes.

If students really feel there is a job to be done in arousing or educating their parents and citizens, let us help them to get on with that job of education. Why not call for a program of involvement in such educational efforts? Why do not faculty and students alike write their own letters to the President, the military, House and Senate Committee members, to our own Delaware senators and representative. Why not carry the message to homes, to Kiwanis, Rotary Clubs, and reach the general public however we can. Why not act as responsible citizens to perform the duties of citizens? Instead of a strike, why not a moratorium day in which classes would be suspended for contemplation, study, or action programs: a day of education--of arousing the populace.

If such a program can be worked out, transportation throughout the State can be arranged by University Extension. The University is an educational institution. It can facilitate an educational program that will work within the system for the change that we agree is needed. We will all be working as a Community for an action program to realize the full potential of America. Thank you.

Mr. Shirley's remarks were applauded by the senators at their conclusion. The chair then stated that the meeting would now go to a committee of the whole. He called upon Mr. Osborne to state what the SGA was doing in their meeting. Mr. Osborne replied that the SGA was reviewing the National Student Association proposal for a University strike for students and professors.

Mr. Glenn received recognition from the chair. He gave a short sketch indicating the philosophy toward the Vietnamese war and described his involvement in that situation since 1954.

Mr. Crawford received recognition from the chair. His remarks were directed at the concern of people in his age group with the sacrifice of life in circumstances such as Vietnam.

Mr. Nielson requested recognition from the chair and received it. He stated that the Senate is in danger of accomplishing nothing if we continue to listen to long speeches on the philosophy of Vietnam and not on matters directly related to what is going on right now on this campus.

Mr. Salsbury received recognition from the chair and after some brief remarks made the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Lippert: RESOLVED, That the Senate recommends the adoption of a moratorium period with a suspension of classes for contemplation, study, or action programs. A period of education - of arousing the populace concerning the circumstances surrounding U. S. action in Southeast Asia. The moratorium will commence at 12:00 noon on Thursday, May 7, 1970, and continue through 8:00 a.m., Monday, May 11, 1970. Some of these activities may continue beyond this stated period. The motion passed by a count of 33 ayes, 0 nays, 3 abstentions.

The next motion to come before the Senate was presented because of the concern that the crisis may continue longer than the period covered by the first motion. The motion by Mr. Crawford, seconded by Mr. Osborne, is as follows: RESOLVED, That the University through its Senate may declare other moratorium days to be spent in activities similar to those outlined by Mr. Shirley (the activities are in essence those stated in the previous motion). This motion was defeated by a count of 8 ayes, 29 nays.

The next motion was offered by Mr. Halio, seconded by Mr. Lippert: RESOLVED, That the officers of the Senate in conjunction with the Provost of the University and the SGA Executive Council begin deliberation and preparation for the moratorium activities just voted on. This motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Harward suggested that a motion be introduced that would state the University Faculty Senate position against a strike. Some debate ensued but no formal motion was placed on the floor regarding this matter.

The next motion to come before the Senate arose from the concern of some members about the necessity to maintain as non-violent conditions as possible. Motion by Mr. Anapol, second Mr. Lippert: RESOLVED, That Ed Kerner and Jon Olson be appointed as Co-Chief Faculty Marshals and we adopt the Kerner statement as an interim guideline measure until the adoption of the policy on disruptive behavior. This motion passed unanimously.

Kerner Statement

It is the position of the Faculty:

- (a) that campus demonstrations of whatever kind and for whatever purpose shall be non-violent as to persons and property;
- (b) that outside forces be brought to the campus solely in the event of clear and present danger to life or clear and present danger of substantial damage to property;
- (c) that such forces, if brought to the campus, use the absolute minimum of force necessary to secure order, especially avoiding to the utmost extent possible use of fire-arms;
- (d) that the initiation of any call from the campus for outside forces be done with consultation of the officers of the University Faculty Senate, if possible, and
- (e) that the full weight of established campus judicial process be brought to bear promptly in any case of campus disorder.

Mr. Moszynski indicated that this was a time for us to exercise the leadership of the Senate. A strike is unfortunante and a moratorium is a better solution. We should attempt to convince the students that a strike is not appropriate in terms of outside repercussions. We should use this period to educate the electorate. Perhaps we can persuade the student body to reconsider their position.

Miss Kennedy stated that she had contacted many students and several faculty in their college. These people indicated that they have a desire to become productive practioners. A strike which might result in a prolonged cessation of classes would hamper their professional development; therefore, they oppose the concept of strike but support the moratorium.

The following motion, proposed by Mr. Harward and seconded by Mr. Lippert, was passed unanimously: RESOLVED, That the Senate charges the Program Committee with the formulation of a reasoned statement press release on the moratorium activity planned at the University.

Mr. Osborne received recognition and made the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Crawford: RESOLVED, That all tests and classes, including final examinations, be made optional for the remainder of this academic year. This motion failed by a count of 9 ayes, 23 nays.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry B. Tingey
Henry B. Tingey, Secretary