

REGULAR MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

October 1, 1979

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the University Faculty Senate was called to order at 4:00 p.m. with President Smith presiding. Senators not in attendance were:

David Ames	Ivo Dominguez	Joseph Noggle
Donald Crossan	Ralph Howard	Jerold Schultz
Alexander Doberenz		

Senators excused were: Eric Brucker, Eugene Chesson. Irwin Greenfield, Charles Marler, Harold Neikirk, Norman Schwartz, Mark Sharnoff, Edward Trabant, Walter Vincent, John Zikakis.

I. Adoption of the Agenda. President Smith asked that Item II, approval of the September Minutes, be deleted because the Minutes are not yet available. There were no further changes and the Agenda was adopted with that deletion.

III. Remarks by Provost Campbell.

Provost Campbell presented the University's official fall enrollment figures, noting that the 19,001 total enrollment was an all-time high, and that the average SAT scores of the entering freshman class were higher than last year, despite the continuing decline in the national averages.

IV. Announcements. Senate President Smith reminded the Senators that, as stated in the Bylaws, two consecutive absences by a senator would result in the seat being declared vacant and a request to the unit for a new election.

V. Old Business.

Item A, a resolution introduced on the floor at the September meeting concerning extension of the period in which a student may change status in, or drop, a course, was introduced and seconded. Senator Summerton, the resolution's sponsor, opened the discussion in support of the resolution by saying that under the present six weeks deadline students were often forced to make a decision about remaining in a course before they had received any objective evaluation of their ability to perform in the course. He added that the proposed extension had been approved by several student groups and by 92.6% of the students in a student poll.

In response to a criticism that extending the period would contribute to grade inflation by helping students drop courses in which they weren't getting an "A," Senator Summerton agreed that there was a potential for abuse, but said he felt the benefits outweighed it. Senator Braun said he saw no evidence of grade inflation at the University since the average grade had stayed in the 2.7 to 2.8 range for the past eight years. Provost Campbell said the average varied among departments and was significantly higher in some units. Senator Flynn said he thought four weeks was

enough time for a student to tell if he was in over his head; Senator Summerton responded by quoting from a memo by Dean Arnott supporting an eight weeks deadline as providing a better chance for students to estimate their ability to finish courses.

Senator Neale objected that, in limited enrollment courses, extending the deadline and allowing the students to delay a decision would have the consequence of denying space in the course to other students. Senator Summerton responded that at present the add period was two weeks, while the drop period was six.

In support of the resolution it was suggested that the extended deadline would especially benefit those students taking electives outside their major when the first exam could not be returned until after the sixth week.

In response to a question from Senator Warter, Provost Campbell said a student who fell below full time status by dropping a course would become a part time student; if he changed to Listener or Pass/Fail status, however, he would remain a full time student. Senator Woodward noted that changing to part time status cost a student money and this would act as a deterrent. Senator Warter objected that the student who knew he had a way out would tend to let himself get too far behind in a course if the drop period were extended. It was also suggested that an extended drop period would give the greatest benefit to the affluent student who could afford to drop courses in an attempt to get a higher grade point average, and that an eight weeks deadline would contribute to a student's not taking a course seriously when he found it difficult.

There was no further discussion and President Smith called for a hand vote; the motion was defeated.

VI. Old Business

Item A, a request for confirmation of appointments to Senate committees, was introduced by Prof. Settles, chair of the Committee on Committees. Prof Settles called attention to the additions (written on the blackboard) to the Agenda item. There were no further nominations from the floor and, in the absence of objections, President Smith declared the appointments confirmed by unanimous consent. (Note: a complete Senate committee roster is being distributed separately.)

Item B, election of a chair of the University Review Committee for Academic Complaints, was introduced by Senate Vice President Hoerl, who announced that the only committee member willing to serve as chair was Prof. Hummel. In the absence of objections, President Smith declared Prof. Hummel elected by unanimous consent.

Item C, a resolution concerning the allocation of State of Delaware funds within the University budget, was introduced by Prof. Hutchinson, chair of the Committee on Budget Review. He explained that State law requires the disclosure of University salaries which are paid from State funds, with the result that under the University's present guidelines for allocating State funds some salaries are subject to disclosure while others are not. He noted that an earlier Senate resolution recommending that the full University budget, including all salaries, be placed in the library, had been rejected by the Board of Trustees, and the Budget Review Committee had then been asked by the Senate officers to review the University's guidelines for allocating State funds. He explained that the Committee's intent in preparing new guidelines was to make all salaries equally vulnerable to disclosure. Questions were asked about the effect of the new guidelines of those whose salaries came entirely from endowment funds, research grants, or from released time-federal funds. It was

noted that although in most cases the terms of this funding would not prohibit State funds from also being used, the use of State funds would prevent full utilization of the outside moneys. President Smith suggested that the phrase "and similar federal requirements" in part 4 of the resolution would take care of these exceptions, and Prof. Hutchinson said he was willing to accept an amendment spelling out any further requirements. Senator Warter made a motion, which was seconded, to return the item to committee for consideration of this problem.

A discussion followed on the origins of the present guidelines, and Prof. Kleinman said that, to the best of his knowledge, they had been generated within the University without specific Trustee approval. President Smith said that, in any case, the Senate must make its recommendations to the University President, for possible transmission to the Board.

There was no further discussion and President Smith called for a hand vote on the motion to return the item to committee; the motion carried.

There being no other items to come before the Senate, President Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ulrich C. Toensmeyer

Ulrich C. Toensmeyer
Secretary
University Faculty Senate