

REGULAR MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

November 3, 1980

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the University Faculty Senate was called to order on Monday, November 3, 1980 at 4:00 p.m., with President Toensmeyer presiding. Senators not in attendance were:

Sylvia Alderson
Eric Brucker
Anne Graham

Gerard Mangone
Joel Morse

Norfleet Rives
John Zikakis

Senators excused were: Thomas Brill, Hatem Khalil, William Ritter, Norman Schwartz, James Soles.

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA. President Toensmeyer reported a request from the Trustee/Faculty Committee on Honorary Degrees for Senate approval of two nominations for honorary degrees; the request for this addition to the Agenda, to precede Item A of new Business, was approved by a hand vote.

President Toensmeyer noted that the sponsoring committee had prepared a substitute resolution for the one printed as Item C of New Business on the Agenda; the substitute resolution was distributed.

There were no further additions or corrections, and the Agenda was declared adopted as changed.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES. Senate Secretary Reynolds noted that Senator Watkins had incorrectly been listed as absent from the October meeting; there were no other changes and the Minutes of October 6, 1980 were approved with this correction.

III. REMARKS BY PRESIDENT TRABANT. President Trabant addressed the Senate on two topics: commencement, and his role as President of the University. Regarding commencement he stated that, although he believed commencement is and should be a joyous occasion, he was concerned that the less than formal conduct of the last four or five years had last year been on the verge of becoming a riot, with a real threat to the safety of those in attendance. He said he felt, first, there isn't enough student involvement in commencement, and second, that the stadium is strongly associated with tailgating and alcohol consumption; he suggested that if commencement had more student involvement and if it were moved to the Mall, maybe we could get a ceremony that was serious and more civilized.

On the second topic, President Trabant said if in the future he accepted more national assignments this would be the result of a conscious decision he had made. He added that, in keeping with his intention of being an "in residence" president, the time commitment for new national activities would come from decreasing his community and local activities.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS. None.

V. OLD BUSINESS.

Item A, a request for the confirmation of two committee chairperson appointments, was introduced by Senator Chesson for the Committee on Committees. There was no discussion and President Toensmeyer declared the following appointments approved by unanimous consent:

Fine Arts and Exhibitions Subcommittee: Maurice Cope, chairperson;
Performing Arts Subcommittee : Michael Steinberg, chairperson.

VI. NEW BUSINESS.

Following the amended Agenda, President Toensmeyer introduced Prof. Pigford and Dean Gouldner, who presented requests from the Trustee/Faculty Committee on Honorary Degrees for Senate approval for the awarding of two honorary degrees. There was no discussion and both recommendations were approved. President Toensmeyer reminded the Senate that the information was confidential, pending final action by the Board of Trustees.

Item A, a resolution concerning faculty supplemental income policies, was introduced by Prof. Knorr, the present chair of the Committee on Research. Prof. Knorr explained that most of the work on the resolution had been done by last year's committee, and he had asked Prof. Metzner, the chair of that committee, to make the presentation.

As background for the recommended policy changes, Prof. Metzner reviewed the role of the Research Committee with regard to both internal (University of Delaware Research Program) and external research funding. He noted that the Research Committee had actively sought increases in the total amount of the internal funding, which is intended primarily for research in the humanities and the social sciences, and had recommended doubling the present amounts. He also discussed the Committee's role in reviewing and selecting proposals for UDRP funding, and he urged faculty in those areas to continue the pressure for such funding.

In his discussion of external funding Prof. Metzner introduced three points regarding current University policy which had led to the Committee's recommendations. First, the policy restricts summer research support to 2/9 of a faculty member's salary, with no possibility of support for a twelfth month, even if faculty wish to remain on campus and work. Second, while the policies for supplemental income restrict the amount for research, overload teaching permits earning up to about 35% additional salary, creating a discrepancy between the income available from these two kinds of activities. Third, the University of Delaware is falling behind other universities, the majority of whom have more generous policies regarding supplemental income earned through summer research support. Prof. Metzner concluded by noting that, although two other matters had been considered, it was not felt appropriate for the Research Committee to directly address either the matter of total supplemental income available through overload teaching or the differences in compensation for Winter and Summer Session teaching.

Senator Haskell asked how the calculation of the recommended permissible supplement was made, noting that the resolution was not explicit for faculty on fiscal (11-month) contracts. Prof. Metzner responded that the intent was to have everyone's additional month's activity be worth the same proportion of the contractual salary. Senator Braun suggested that could be made clear by adding the phrase "at a rate not to exceed 1/11 of the fiscal year salary" at the end of the resolution; this was accepted as an editorial change.

Prof. Metzner was asked how the proposed policy change would promote research, and he responded that the Committee saw the proposal as shifting some time toward a greater emphasis on research for those faculty who generate income from research, and that his earlier remarks about attempts to increase internal research funding were intended to speak to faculty not currently generating research support, so some balance would be maintained in the availability of research funding across the various disciplines. There was no further discussion and the resolution, with the editorial change, as follows, was approved by a hand vote:

WHEREAS faculty and professional staff may derive income supplemental to that of their academic-year or fiscal year contracts by engaging in teaching or research activities not included in the regular contractual commitments, and

WHEREAS the involvements in such activity have evolved substantially since the initial inception of current policies, both here and at other educational institutions,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the University Faculty Senate recommends to the Administration of the University the adoption of the following policies concerning salary supplements, to replace paragraph 4 of Section G: Additional University Payments to Faculty (page III-G-1) of the present Faculty Handbook):

4. Limits on Summer Compensation

Faculty members on academic-year contracts may receive additional compensation for three months of summer work on sponsored research or summer teaching at a monthly rate not to exceed one-ninth the base salary. The total compensation from all sources may not exceed three-ninths of the basic academic year salary for the summer months. Correspondingly, faculty on fiscal year contracts may receive additional compensation for one month of summer work on sponsored research at a rate not to exceed 1/11 of the fiscal year salary.

Item B, a request for Senate endorsement of a recommendation for choosing films for presentation on campus, was introduced by Prof. Haas, chair of the Committee on Student Life. Prof. Haas asked that the following changes be made in the resolution as it was printed on the Agenda: 1) in line 3 of the resolution, the word "policy" should be "recommendation"; 2) in line 5 of the last paragraph the word "and" should be "or."

As background to his Committee's recommendations, Prof. Haas explained that, in response to complaints following the showing of "The Opening of Misty Beethoven" on campus last Spring, the Senate executive Committee had asked the Committee on Student Life to look at the issue of X-rated films on campus. He said the Committee had met with the Student Films Committee and the Student Center Staff and, after considering campus points of view ranging from those who are opposed to any form of censorship to those who are offended by such movies, they had decided to steer a moderate course and had prepared the two resolutions, Items B and C, on the Agenda. He explained that the first, Item B, was a request for Senate endorsement of a three paragraph recommendation, to be sent to the Student Films Committee, which did not ban any films but did ask that Committee to be responsive to all members of the campus community.

A concern was expressed that the recommendation did not mention violence, and a motion was made and seconded to add the word "violence" in the fifth line of the last paragraph, to read "nudity, sexual acts, or violence. . . ." Melanie Sharp, chairperson of the Student Films Committee, said although she agreed that the Committee should take into consideration whether films contained violence as well as nudity or sexual acts, she felt they were already doing that. Senator Smith said that if the Committee already did what was being requested, the recommendation served no purpose, and a debate over what kind of films should not be shown was a form of censorship. A student member of DUSC agreed, noting that in their attempt to satisfy the needs of the campus and to take into consideration all views, the Films Committee presented 48 films each semester, and because there were objections to one of them a policy was not needed to put it down. Prof. Haas responded that complaints had been received about three recent films, and his committee's recommendation was not coercive, but was intended to remind the Films Committee that there are members on campus who object to such films.

Senator Sharnoff made a motion, which was seconded, to refer the matter back to committee; the motion was defeated by a hand vote.

President Toensmeyer called for further discussion of the motion to amend by adding the word "violence." Shaku Bhaya, chair of Women Working for Change, said she supported the Films Committee, but felt that if the Senate were going to make a recommendation about sex and nudity then violence should be included. Senator Braun suggested, as an editorial change, that "violence" be inserted before "nudity," to read "violence, nudity or sexual acts. . . ."; there was no objection. President Toensmeyer called for the vote and the motion to amend was approved by a hand vote.

President Toensmeyer then called for discussion of the resolution as amended. In response to a senator's objection that the difference between a "recommendation" and a "policy" was very slim, and that Senate approval would constitute censorship, a motion was made and seconded that the last sentence of the last paragraph be omitted; the motion was defeated by a hand vote.

Senator Haskell urged the Senate to reject the resolution because Senate approval would address the faculty to a particular point of view on campus and would magnify the complaints of the fewer than 100 persons who objected to the films. Senator Chesson disagreed, and said that he did not feel all experiences in life are necessarily appropriate to an institution of higher education.

A discussion followed on the difficulties of setting appropriate standards for choosing films, and Senator Braun made a motion, which was seconded, to amend the

last sentence of the last paragraph of the resolution to read: "We strongly recommend that the SPA consider the social or scientific value of the films before deciding to sponsor them." The amendment was defeated by a hand vote.

Senator Sharnoff made a motion, which was seconded, to ask the Committee on Academic Freedom to consider the issue and report back to the Senate before a vote was taken; the motion was defeated by a hand vote.

President Toensmeyer asked if there were anyone who had not yet spoken on the issue who wished to do so; there was no further discussion. He then called for the vote on Item B, the resolution, as amended, to endorse the recommendation to be sent to the Student Films Committee; the resolution was defeated.

Item C, for which the following substitute resolution had been distributed, was opened for discussion by Prof. Haas.

- C. A resolution from the Committee on Student Life, K. Haas, chair, to provide for the appointment of a faculty member to the Student Films Committee.

RESOLVED, that the Committee on Committees be directed to appoint, after consultation with the chair of the Films Committee of the Student Program Association, a faculty member to the Films Committee for a single two year term, and that the Committee on Student Life be directed to conduct an evaluation of this procedure at the end of the two year time period.

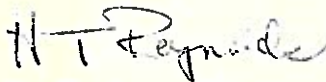
Senator Waid spoke against the resolution, noting that although all faculty should accept the responsibility of rendering advice and opinions when they are consulted by students, she did not believe that a faculty member, even a volunteer, should be placed on the Films Committee; she said such a faculty member would be asked to do an impossible balancing act with respect to the various points of view, and would be laying his or her academic life on the line for the rest of the faculty. Prof. Haas replied that the faculty member would not be expected to vote a certain way, to take a point of view, or to act as a censor, but would have comments to make on the films being considered. He added that students serve on faculty committees, and the faculty member, in this case chosen by the Committee on Committees after consultation with the Student Films Committee, would only present a piece of faculty advice to the student committee.

Senator Braun asked whether the faculty had a legal right to appoint a member to a student committee. President Toensmeyer responded that there are a number of places in which the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees charge the faculty with responsibility for formulating rules and regulations for the government and discipline of the student body, for providing for the establishment of the curricula and courses, for establishing a program of extra-course education for students, and for making recommendations for public functions held under the auspices of the University. Senator Braun objected

that these were responsibilities to "oversee" these things, and that what was proposed in the resolution was an extra-legal procedure which exceeded the faculty's authority. There was no further discussion, and President Toensmeyer called for the vote on Item C; the resolution was defeated by a hand vote.

No further items were introduced, and President Toensmeyer declared the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



H. T. Reynolds
Secretary
University Faculty Senate