

REGULAR MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

December 7, 1981

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the University Faculty Senate was called to order on Monday, December 7, 1981 at 4:00 p.m., with President Hoffecker presiding. Senators not in attendance were:

Susan Bennett  
Peter Hill

Lucia Palmer  
James Thornton

Greg Wilson.

Senators excused were: David Ames, Donald Crossan, Helen Gouldner, Steven Kaiser, Joel Morse, Norfleet Rives, E.A. Trabant, Tom Watkins.

- I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA. The Agenda was adopted as distributed.
- II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES. The Minutes of the November 2, 1981 meeting were approved as distributed.
- III. REMARKS. None.
- IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS. At the request of Prof. Mosberg, chair of the Committee on Academic Freedom, President Hoffecker read the following announcement:

The Committee on Academic Freedom has been advised by a faculty member that as part of a security clearance interview concerning a student, the faculty member was asked to divulge the political views of the student as expressed in class. The Committee wishes to determine whether this is an isolated event or whether other faculty have had similar inquiries. Please contact Lou Mosberg, Chair, Committee on Academic Freedom (X 2324) if you have had such inquiries regarding students' classroom expressions of political views.
- V. OLD BUSINESS. None.
- VI. NEW BUSINESS.

Item A, a request from the Committee on Committees for Senate approval of a committee appointment, was introduced by the committee chair, Prof. Morrison. There was no discussion, and the resolution, as follows, was approved by unanimous voice vote:

*RESOLVED, that the appointment of Violet Malinski to the Nominating Committee to fill a one year term expiring September 1, 1982, is hereby approved.*

Item B, a recommendation to change the method of designating the chair of the Academic Complaints Committee, was introduced by Prof. Lee, chair of the Rules Committee. President Hoeffecker said that the present procedure, which has obligated the Senate president to poll the committee members before the election of a chair is brought to the Senate, has proved awkward and unworkable, and she agreed with Prof. Lee and the Rules Committee that the proposed method would be more expeditious. Provost Campbell asked if the proposed method wouldn't be more expeditious for designating chairs for all Senate committees. President Hoeffecker noted that in most cases the Committee on Committees designates both the committee members and the chair, but in the case of the Academic Complaints committee they choose only the members, and the chair is then elected from among those members by the Senate. Senator Smith, noting that the action required by the resolution would not occur until next May, made a motion, which was seconded, to return the resolution to the Rules Committee so the procedure could be considered for all committees.

Senator Mosberg asked why the Academic Complaints committee should select its own chair, and President Hoeffecker responded that it was presumed that the sensitive nature of the committee's work was such that if the members had hostility toward their chair it might prejudice decisions in the matters that came before it. Senator Cope suggested that it might be unwise to be tied to having to obtain a chair from among what would be a pool of only 3 eligible people. There was no further discussion, and the motion to return the resolution to the Rules Committee for their consideration of its application to other Senate committees was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Item C, a recommendation for an addition to the non-voting membership of the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Standing, was introduced by Prof. Morrison, chair of the Committee on Committees. After a brief discussion the following resolution was approved by unanimous voice vote:

*RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate Bylaws, III: Standing Committee System of the Faculty and its Senate, Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Standing (pp. I-24,25 of the present Faculty Handbook), last paragraph, is changed to read as follows:*

*This committee shall consist of an appointee of the President; the Associate Provost for Instruction; the Dean of Admissions and the Director of Records, as ex officio, non-voting members; two undergraduate students; and a faculty member from each college enrolling undergraduate majors, one of whom shall be chairperson.*

Item D, a recommendation from the Committee on Committees to change the designated position on the Computer Committee to "Associate Provost for Computing or designee," was also introduced by Prof. Morrison; he explained that the change was made necessary by the recent change in administrative titles in the Computing Center.

Senator Warter moved that "or designee" be deleted; the motion was seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Dean Gaither asked why the committee did not have a similarly designated

membership for the head of the academic department of computing. Prof. Morrison responded that, although the Committee on Committees had not discussed that specific question, they had agreed that the Computer Committee is a faculty committee and the members should not be mainly computer specialists, but should reflect the faculty in general with some input from one member who is an expert.

There was no further discussion, and the amended resolution, as follows, was approved by unanimous voice vote:

*RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate Bylaws, III: Standing Committee System of the Faculty and its Senate, Computer Committee (p. I-17 of the present Faculty Handbook) is changed to read as follows:*

COMPUTER COMMITTEE

*This shall consist of the Associate Provost for Computing; seven faculty members, of whom one shall be chairperson; and one undergraduate and one graduate student. It shall advise on policies on the use and on the expansion of computer facilities, and hear and coordinate suggestions thereon.*

Item E, a recommendation to change the Student Grievance Procedure by the deletion of a sentence from the definition of a grade complaint, was brought to the Senate by Prof. G. Culley, chair of the Committee on Student Life. President Hoffecker reminded the Senate that a motion to delete this sentence which had been introduced from the floor by Senator Waid at the May, 1981 Senate meeting had been sent to two Senate committees. She reported that the Committee on Faculty Welfare and Privileges had agreed that the sentence should be deleted, and had suggested that some thought should be given to the creation of a University-wide student evaluation of courses; the Committee on Student Life had also agreed with the essence of Prof. Waid's suggestion and had prepared the resolution on the Agenda. Prof. G. Culley added that the Committee on Student Life felt the definition of grade complaint was adequate, and that the sentence to be deleted was unnecessary and inappropriate because it offered advice for dealing with matters that were outside the scope of the procedure.

Senator Smith asked what was meant in the document by "faculty member," and whether part-time faculty were included; Pres. Hoffecker said she assumed it meant anyone teaching courses and giving credits. Senator Warter suggested the document needed some re-writing; Pres. Hoffecker agreed, and said the Executive Committee would remand it to the committee with that request. There was no further discussion and the resolution, as follows, was approved by unanimous voice vote:

*RESOLVED, that the second sentence of the paragraph labeled "1" in the preamble, "Definition of a Student Complaint," be omitted from the Student Grievance Procedure.*

Item F, a recommendation from the Executive Committee to delay implementation of the new course numbering policies, was introduced by Vice President Culley. Prof. Culley explained that the resolution was not being introduced as a means to rehash all the arguments about it, but as a response by the Executive Committee to a number of people who had expressed concerns that the new policies had not been thought all the way through and that people did not understand all the issues involved, and in view of this they had felt it would be better to resolve the problems than to implement the policies and then change them later.

Senator Hall said if the rationale for the resolution was to provide for reconsideration of a Senate action he assumed it couldn't be considered unless it was brought to the Senate by a member who had voted in the majority. Following a consultation with Parliamentarian Barnhill, Pres. Hoffecker ruled that this provision pertained only when a proposal to reconsider an action was made in the same session in which the action had been taken.

Senator Schwartz said it looked to him as if the new policy could lead to an undesired cancellation of classes and programs that depended for enrollment on double-listing, and he was among those who felt it should be re-considered. Provost Campbell objected that he only knew of 6 requests for reconsideration, and he asked what the committees could be expected to do that they hadn't already done. President Hoffecker responded that the most serious challenge which had been received with respect to the previous committee studies was that they had not consulted with the departments as to how the new policies would impact on their programs. Senator Warter objected that the policy had been widely discussed among department chairs and at two Senate meetings, and he recommended against the resolution. Senator Mangone agreed, and added that if some classes must fail perhaps that was the intent, so that courses would reflect a real academic standard.

Senator Schwartz responded that if that was the real intent, that should have been stated and discussed. Senator Cope agreed, and said that if courses were to be disestablished it should be done by the appropriate procedures and not by changing the course numbering system. In addition he argued that not only courses, but programs as well would be affected, and it was not clear what harm this would do to students, since it could result in a vastly curtailed series of courses to choose from. He also said the policy would harm students in terms of grades, since it would be possible for undergraduates taking a 600 level course to later transfer that course for graduate credit, and they would therefore have to be graded at the graduate student level. He said there seemed to be a difference between the sciences and the humanities and social sciences on this issue, because the scientists saw a much more rigid level of development in course level structure, and he felt that such rigidity was neither necessary nor appropriate to others, and it would be unfortunate if one set imposed it on another part of the University.

Senator Mosberg said he thought it was clear that there were a number of people who were concerned about this policy change, and the main question was whether the senators wanted to afford their colleagues the opportunity to present their arguments before the proper committees; he added that he didn't think any serious harm would be done by delaying implementation of the policy.

Senator Smith noted that the resolution which was approved in October had had 3 parts, and he asked whether the present resolution was addressed to all 3; after a brief discussion it was agreed that it was. Senator Smith made a motion, which was

seconded, to amend the resolution so that it would delay implementation of only the first of the policy changes, the part prohibiting double-listing of courses, and would not affect the new definitions of 500 and 600 level courses. Senator R. Murray said retaining the option of double-listing while adopting the definition of 600 level courses as graduate/advanced undergraduate courses would create more problems than it would solve.

Senator Ridge said he had voted for the new course numbering policies in October, but as his and other departments had begun to make decisions about which courses would be 400 and which 600 he had become aware that the decisions in one department would affect other units, and he therefore encouraged the Senate to vote in favor of the delay.

Mr. Graziano, Director of Institutional Research, reported that although present Senate policy asks that the graduate component of double-listed courses be offered at the graduate level, a just-completed survey of students in double-listed courses had found that in about half the instances the students indicated that it was clear that there was a double standard for the course, and in half it was not. He said this, and the possibility of students getting credit twice for the same course, were two important problems with the present policies that should be taken into account.

Senator R. Murray said he had followed the discussion of the policies through the Senate committees, and the proposal had had nothing to do with getting rid of graduate programs or courses, but its purpose had been to correct student, faculty, and administrative problems by returning to the system which had worked prior to 1975. Senator Geiger responded that although the issue had come to the Senate as one of clarifying and streamlining the numbering system, it had turned out to have immense implications for departmental courses and programs. He said there was no obligation for the Senate to remain in the decision it had made, and it would be better for them to review their action before it caused the disestablishment of courses or any serious disruption of academic programs, without providing the usual Senate scrutiny of such program decisions. He also said that if there were found to be serious abuses of the present system these should be addressed through pressure from the departments and their chairs, the deans, and the Provost.

President Hoffecker called for a hand vote on Senator Smith's motion to amend the resolution; the motion was defeated, 21 for and 26 opposed. She then called for a hand vote on the resolution as published in the Agenda; the resolution, as follows, was approved, 31 for and 19 opposed:

*WHEREAS the Executive Committee of the University Faculty Senate has been made aware of significant faculty concern regarding the policy prohibiting double listing of courses which was approved by the Senate in October, 1981, and*

*WHEREAS several senators have written the Executive Committee asking that discussion on this policy be re-opened, and*

*WHEREAS the Executive Committee has judged these concerns to be sufficient to warrant review by the appropriate Senate committees, therefore be it*

*RESOLVED that the effective date of the resolution regarding course numbering policies which was approved by the*

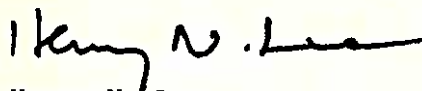
*University Faculty Senate on October 5, 1981 (Item V.A.)  
is changed from September 1, 1982 to September 1, 1983;  
and be it further*

*RESOLVED that the committees on Undergraduate Studies and Graduate  
Studies, and the Coordinating Committee on Education are  
instructed to review these policies and report their  
findings and recommendations to the Executive Committee  
by March 1, 1982.*

President Hoffeecker announced that the Executive Committee had concluded it would be unnecessary to have a Senate meeting in January, and she called for a vote to cancel that meeting, reserving the right to call a meeting if any important issues arose; cancellation of the January meeting was approved by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Henry N. Lee  
Secretary  
University Faculty Senate