

REGULAR MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

December 5, 1983

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the University Faculty Senate was called to order on Monday, December 5, 1983 at 4:00 p.m. with President Smith presiding. Senators not in attendance were:

Thomas Angell
Kimberly Carrell

Donald Crossan
Arthur Metzner .

Senators excused were: Anna Ciulla, Alexander Doberenz, Carol Hoffecker, David Lamb, Anne Mooney, Frank Murray.

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.

In the absence of objection, the Agenda was adopted as distributed.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES. The Minutes of the November 7 meeting not yet having been distributed, their approval was postponed.

III. REMARKS BY PRESIDENT TRABANT.

President Trabant read the portion, proposing a Universal National Service, of a speech which was presented by Dr. David Saxon at the recent Washington meeting of the National Association of State and Land Grant Colleges; Dr. Saxon's speech is printed as Attachment 1 of these Minutes. President Trabant said he believed the proposal should receive serious consideration, and he offered to work with and assist the Senate in addressing this issue and preparing a response.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

1. Senate President Smith.

Noting that the tradition has been not to hold a January Senate meeting unless there were a compelling reason to do so, President Smith said that there were presently several important issues before Senate committees and it was too early to know if they would be reported out. He requested permission for the Executive Committee to decide whether a meeting was necessary, and to notify the senators; it was so moved and seconded, and the motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

President Smith also requested permission for the Executive Committee to arrange for taping of the Senate meetings, should this prove necessary. It was so moved, and seconded, and the motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

2. Report from Dr. Douglas McConkey, Dean of Admissions:
Undergraduate Recruitment

Dean McConkey opened his remarks with a review of the factors, including the declining number of high school graduates, which have put a renewed emphasis on recruitment efforts and which have made higher educational institutions very competitive in recruiting students. He then reviewed where University of Delaware students have traditionally come from, noting that most come from within a radius of about 100 miles from Newark, and that at present few come from north of Harrisburg, southern New Jersey, or lower Delaware. He said he felt those three areas represent a clearly defined "market" area, and as a help in expanding the University's efforts the recruiting staff had been re-assigned on a geographical basis and had been given new responsibilities for developing recruitment programs in their areas. He described some of the staff's recruitment efforts, including attending high school college fairs, bringing high school students to the campus, sending mailings at several times during the year, and establishing frequent contacts with the high school guidance counselors. He also described the special efforts being made to recruit black students, noting that few now come from inner city areas. He said programs presently underway include involving more black students, particularly through the Big Brother/Big Sister program, and black alumni in the recruitment efforts. Dean McConkey also noted that few students come to the University of Delaware from community colleges, and his staff had begun to visit those colleges on a regular basis for the first time this fall in an effort to increase recruitment, particularly from among the many black students there. He noted that an important part of this effort was the establishment by the University of clear policies for the transfer of credits, and that the problems of the availability to transfer students of housing and of financial aid also needed to be addressed.

Senator Gallagher asked what percentage of the community college students went on to four-year colleges; Dean McConkey said it ranged from 30% to 50%. Senator Ellis asked why so few students came from lower Delaware. Dean McConkey responded that this had been the case for some time, and it probably reflected a perception of the University as too large and too difficult. He said that, in addition to regular visits to that area's high schools and guidance counselors, his staff was attempting to personalize the process by arranging visits to the campus by prospective students, for such things as football games and individual meetings with faculty.

Responding to a question about the timing of the recruitment process, Dean McConkey said they begin with a mass mailing to high school juniors in the Spring, and concentrate in the Fall on those students who have been admitted to the University but have not yet decided to attend. Vice President Sharkey added that the University was more flexible in its admission deadlines for in-state students.

In response to a question from Senator Schweizer, Dean McConkey said he did not think it was possible for a student to receive a degree from the University without going through the admissions process. Responding to a question from Senator Palmer, he said efforts were being increased, particularly in the more "academic" high schools, to recruit students from the inner-city. Senator Ackerman asked about the use of mass media advertising, and Dean McConkey said this was being considered, but it was still such a new practice that there had not yet been any studies which would allow a comparison of the mass media approach to the University's policy of concentrating

on students who have taken the SATs and who have been admitted. Senator Ulrich said he thought the University's higher out-of-state tuition fees might affect recruitment, particularly in the case of students whose parents worked in Delaware but lived in Maryland. Senator Schweizer suggested that changing the policy, perhaps based on where the parents paid taxes, might help. President Trabant said that in the past the University had been advised that to change any one part of its tuition policy would jeopardize the whole, but he would look at the situation again.

3. Announcements for challenge.

a. A revision of the M.S. in Nursing, printed in Attachment 2 of the Agenda, was declared approved in the absence of challenge.

b. A revision of the M.A. in Urban Affairs and Public Policy was discussed briefly. In response to a question from Senate Secretary Culley about the total number of credits required, Prof. Wilson explained that the list of courses printed on Attachment 3, p. 3, should read: UA 827 *or* UA 804, and the number of required credits was 36. Senator Culley noted that the changes seemed important ones in that the revision required some newly-created courses, but retained none of the required courses from the old program except UA 815. Senator Sussman, chair of the Committee on Graduate Studies, explained that the committee had determined that the revisions were both in keeping with changes in the field and were within the College's Program Policy Statement. There was no further discussion and, in the absence of challenge, the revision of the M.A. in Urban Affairs, as printed in Agenda Attachment 3, and with the addition of "or" between "UA 827" and "UA 804" on page 3, was declared approved.

c. A revision of the B.S. in Agricultural Engineering Technology, Agenda Attachment 4, was declared approved in the absence of challenge.

V. OLD BUSINESS - none.

VI. NEW BUSINESS.

Item A, the call for new business for consideration at the next Senate meeting, was responded to by Senator Morgan, who introduced a resolution regarding mid-term grades; two suggestions for editorial changes were accepted by Senator Morgan.

WHEREAS the University of Delaware has been experiencing a problem with an unacceptably high number of dismissals of freshmen for academic deficiency, and

WHEREAS most freshmen encounter difficulty in making the transition from high school courses to the more rigorous demands of university courses, and

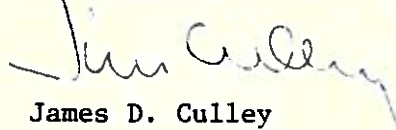
WHEREAS it is very helpful for freshmen (and their advisers) to receive in mid-semester an unambiguous warning of inadequate progress in their courses so that they have ample time and opportunity to improve their performance, be it

RESOLVED that every freshman shall be assigned a meaningful mid-semester letter grade (A, B, C, D, or F) in each course in which he/she is enrolled for a letter grade; furthermore, be it

RESOLVED that every freshman shall be assigned a mid-semester grade of P or F in each course in which he/she is enrolled in P/F status.

No further business was introduced. A motion for adjournment was made and seconded, and President Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



James D. Culley
Secretary
University Faculty Senate

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Attachment: Excerpt from a speech by Dr. David Saxon: Universal National Service

Excerpt from a speech by Dr. David Saxon:

UNIVERSAL NATIONAL SERVICE

Finally, as a third, and more controversial, point I want to say something about the idea of universal national service as a means of coupling educational opportunity to other national goals and to our great American traditions of service. There is presently in the congress a bill (S. 1896) sponsored by Senators Tsongas of Massachusetts, Cranston of California, and others to establish a select commission to examine and make recommendations to the President and the Congress regarding voluntary service programs and the costs and benefits of alternative types of national service programs.

While I would support the Tsongas bill as a useful and perhaps necessary first step, I myself would go much further and recommend that we examine seriously the potential of a program of universal youth service coupled with an analogous universal "G.I. Bill" for education. I would urge that a congressionally-mandated select commission consider a universal service program which, in its general characteristics, should ultimately:

- o Cover all young people, men and women alike, in an appropriate age group;
- o Encompass military service and a variety of socially valuable activities-- not only at the national level but, and importantly, at state and local levels as well--including those now operated by the Peace Corps and Vista, conservation projects, community activities, health-care assistance, and many others.
- o Permit no deferments except for extreme hardship or disability--handicapped youth can, and should have the opportunity to, participate in appropriately designed services;
- o Be designed and administered so that all service activities are integrated ethnically, racially, sexually, and socio-economically, and so help to weave better from its many strands the full fabric of the nation;
- o Provide access to higher education or to alternative post-secondary training for all persons in the program, on the basis of self-enlightened quid pro quo, with continuation after the initial year or years contingent upon satisfactory academic progress.

There is some question whether military service within the context of a universal service program could be voluntary or would need to be compulsory for those selected. Ideally, it should be voluntary, but only actual experience could provide an answer.

A universal service program would have significant advantages for the nation:

- o It would go far toward fulfilling the Land-Grant ideal of equal access to post-secondary education, removing financial obstacles that are only partially and fragmentarily addressed by the existing array of student financial aid programs;

Universal National Service

- 2 -

- o It could go far toward equalizing the national obligations of young Americans for service and toward eliminating the "either-or" character of military service that has caused bitterness and alienation among young Americans in the past, and could do so again;
- o It could lead to the accomplishment of a large number of socially valuable projects, only a few of which can be done under existing programs: one which comes readily to mind is the presently pressing problem of our deteriorated "infrastructure" at the national, state, and local levels;
- o It would offer valuable opportunities for in-service training in a wide variety of fields and so provide a base of experience and maturity on which to plan subsequent academic programs;
- o It would provide young Americans from all backgrounds with the opportunity to work together and give them in addition a greater sense of identification with and responsibility for the national welfare.

While the direct cost of a universal service program tightly coupled with a modern "G.I. bill" would be high, the net cost could well be within the nation's means when the costs of existing programs to be replaced (Peace Corps, Vista, CETA, BEOGS and other financial aid programs, and the like) are deducted and the long-term displacement of alternative welfare and other social costs are considered. It could provide a new method of attack also on a number of social problems, including particularly those associated with young people adrift in the back waters, out of work and out of the main stream.

The concept of universal national service is not new, of course, and other nations have such programs. There is no denying that a national service program for a nation the size of the United States would be an undertaking of great size. But our social needs are great; and the problems of education and, more important, of outlook and morale for American youth--all American youth--demand a bold and far-reaching approach. The idea of universal national service holds such potentially great promise that it deserves prompt and thoughtful and thorough consideration by the kind of congressionally-mandated select commission I have suggested and by all of us.

/b
12/83