

REGULAR MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

November 7, 1983

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the University Faculty Senate was called to order on Monday, November 7, 1983 at 4:00 p.m. with President Smith presiding. Senators not in attendance were:

Donald Crossan
Peter Hill

Cheryl Perkins
Donald Sparks

Robert Wilson .

Senators excused were: David Ames, Lee Anderson, Thomas Angell, Gordon Bonner, Louis Cusella, William Gaither, Helen Gouldner, Arthur Metzner, Anne Mooney, Frank Murray, Richard Murray, Lucia Palmer, John Pikulski, Billy Ross, Stuart Sharkey, and Edward Schweizer.

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.

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

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES.

President Smith acknowledged receipt of a written request from Provost Campbell for a change in the Minutes of the September 12 meeting. In the absence of objections, President Smith declared the Minutes of the September 12 and October 3, 1983 meetings approved for the present, with one correction submitted.

[The requested change, in III: Remarks by Provost Campbell, last sentence, is as follows:

Senator Angell asked whether any proposals would be available in advance, and Provost Campbell responded

As written: that no proposals had as yet been presented to the vendors.
Change : no, proposals by the vendors are too voluminous to duplicate.]

III. REMARKS BY PRESIDENT TRABANT.

1. January Commencement. President Trabant announced that plans to carry out the decision to hold a commencement for graduate and undergraduate students completing degree requirements in the fall semester are underway. The ceremony will be held on Sunday, January 8 at 2:30, in Clayton Hall. He estimated that 500 to 600 students would complete their requirements, 400-500 of whom would participate in the ceremony, and he expressed the hope that as many faculty as possible would also participate.

2. Request for State Funding. President Trabant reported that the annual process of requesting state funds for the University had formally begun on October 21 with a presentation by various University representatives in the Dover office of the State Budget Director. He noted that in the recent past the University has been able to meet its needs by increasing tuition and depending on its academic reputation to continue to attract both in- and out-of-state students, but as students have become more mobile and the University's tuition less competitive this may no longer work and this year's request for increased funding from the State becomes particularly critical.

Quoting from the statement he made at the Budget Director's meeting, President Trabant said that the University is requesting \$6.7 million more from the State than was received in the current fiscal year--a 15.8% increase. He reviewed the history of tuition charges which, with the help of state funding, were held steady during fiscal 1979, 1980, and 1981, but which have increased just under 70% for the past 3 fiscal years, and 77% for non-residents since fiscal 1980. He said the 1982-83 nonresident cost of \$5,911 for tuition, room, and board was the highest among the six state institutions with which the University competes for students. President Trabant suggested that the state executive branch may have viewed the University as having its own sources of funds and therefore able to survive level funding, but he pointed out that those sources are now stretched to the limit and the University must clearly communicate the necessity for increased funding.

3. President Trabant announced his intention to present a "white paper," exploring some more fundamental thoughts on University funding for the next 3 years, at a future Senate meeting, with the hope that it could serve as a basis for discussion at a subsequent meeting.

REMARKS BY PROVOST CAMPBELL.

Provost Campbell announced that the October 10 Open Hearing on computer proposals had been well attended and had generated good questions and debate. He noted that following the hearing people had been asked to submit written comments, and the comments received had generally been consistent with the results of the study group which recommended the "IBM world." He reported that negotiations on prices are now underway. Provost Campbell also said that the IBM has UNIX capabilities, so the University could continue to use its UNIX system. He added that he would make a presentation to the Board of Trustees on the 22-month study, the 4-month review of the options, and the feedback from the campus, and that he was pleased with both the study group process and its outcome.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

1. Remarks by Dean Greenfield. Dean Greenfield began his remarks by explaining that he had prepared a document summarizing the activities of the College of Engineering, but he preferred to present additional material to the Senate. [Note: the report, "College of Engineering Annual Report: 1982-83," is available in the Senate Office.] He began with a history of the 91-year-old college, from the establishment of the first two departments--Civil Engineering, and a combined Mechanical/Electrical Engineering department--in Mechanics Hall in 1892, through the 1911 separation

of Electrical Engineering and the 1916 inclusion of Chemical Engineering, with all three departments housed in the completed Evans Hall by 1930. He noted that Mechanical and Electrical Engineering were accredited in 1933, Civil Engineering in 1934, and Chemical Engineering in 1938. Speaking of the growth of engineering facilities, he listed the completion of DuPont Lab in 1957, Colburn in 1968, the Ocean Engineering building in 1982, and Spencer Lab in 1983. He then enumerated some of the College's graduates of distinction, including company presidents, owners, and executives; inventors; administrators in government agencies; and members of academic faculties in the U.S. and abroad.

With respect to ongoing research activities in the College, Dean Greenfield called particular attention to 3 units: the Center for Catalytic Science and Technology, the Center for Composite Materials, and the Materials Durability Center. He noted that all 3 have been successful in attracting outside support funds, and that they are all involved in the educational programs, with both graduate and undergraduate students participating.

Dean Greenfield then reviewed the history of computer use at the University, since its inception in the Chemical Engineering Department, and he especially noted the very successful and widely-used CAD-CAM computer program which was developed in the Mechanical Engineering department. He concluded his remarks with a report on some of the art activities which the College is developing for students, faculty, and staff--including a lunch time concert by the Delos Quartet, contributions by local artists, and a display case being built in Colburn Lab for art created by the College community.

Senator Sussman asked what the market is today for graduates of the various engineering departments. Dean Greenfield responded that the market for electrical engineers is presently the strongest, and the market for mechanical engineers is also very strong; for chemical engineers it has slipped some from its very strong position of a few years ago; and the market for civil engineers was the least strong, although it was holding steady. He added that the demand for the various kinds of engineering graduates tended to change very quickly, and 4 years from now the positions could be reversed.

2. Senate President Smith. President Smith reported that the constitutional amendment which the Senate approved at its October meeting--to give voting rights in the Senate to the immediate past president--had also been approved at the October 17 general faculty meeting.

Since it is not yet clear who will replace the Senate Staff Assistant during her leave of absence, Pres. Smith announced that he might be making a formal request to the Senate in December for permission to tape record the meeting; he asked the senators to forward any comments on this to him.

President Smith reported that the subcommittee on Retiring, Retired, and Emeritus Faculty had undertaken, as a first step, the task of compiling a list of retired faculty, and a directory was now nearly completed.

President Smith concluded by calling attention to the Committee Activities Report--Attachment 1 of each Agenda. He asked that Senators especially note what the committees are working on, and that they bring appropriate items to the attention of their faculty meetings.

V. OLD BUSINESS - none.

VI. NEW BUSINESS.

Item A, a resolution from the Executive Committee regarding the establishment of a policy for the advisement of freshmen, was introduced by Vice President Kuhlman. He explained that the major reason the Executive Committee had taken the unusual step of placing this item on the Agenda was a simple matter of restricted timing. By way of background, he noted that on the 6th and 13th of October the Undergraduate Studies committee chair had circulated a memo which described the problem that exists in a lack of a reliable or enforced contract between faculty advisors and students, suggested a 7-step procedure [Attachment 2 of the meeting Agenda] which the committee had developed, and indicated that the procedure would be implemented this Fall for use on a trial basis for the Spring semester. Vice President Kuhlman said that at the same time the memo had made people aware of a very real problem and a possibility that we might be unnecessarily losing some of our better students because they were not getting adequate direction, it had also prompted expressions of concern to the Executive Committee about the implementability of the suggested procedures. He said he had discussed these concerns with Prof. Latham, the chair of the Undergraduate Studies committee and, because there was not enough time to go back to the full committee if the item were to be on the Senate Agenda in time for action and Spring implementation, they had tried to write a resolution for presentation by the Executive Committee that both captured the concerns of the Undergraduate Studies committee and also addressed the problems of implementation. He explained that the result was the resolution presently before the Senate, which avoided a definite date, but would allow the colleges and departments to develop specific procedures that would guarantee meaningful contact between students and their advisers in the various units. He added that the Undergraduate Studies committee had met earlier that day and had approved the present resolution.

President Smith read the resolution, and noted that the Senate's recent approval of a policy and a sample contract for "field experience" courses, which left the procedures to be worked out, was a precedent for this kind of action.

Senator Stixrude asked if the resolution meant that the procedures would go into effect next Spring and then every semester after that, necessitating summer advisement appointments. Vice President Kuhlman replied that the intent was first to recognize the problem with freshmen students, and then to do something to solve it as quickly as each college could develop effective procedures, and that each of the colleges would decide what would work best for them.

Senator Levin said he didn't think very much was known about the sources of freshman failure--such as the percentage of closely supervised students who made errors in registration--and he suggested that if not much was known about the problem you couldn't know if the proposed resolution was a potential solution. He also questioned the amount of faculty time involved in pursuing the procedures, and the ability of the faculty to be effective; he suggested that such factors as the percentage of "undeclared" students in a college would have to be considered. Provost Campbell responded that the proposed procedures were a way to insure that the current University policy from the Faculty Handbook, which says that all student course schedules must be approved by an advisor, will be followed.

Associate Dean Rees said that timing would be the main problem if the procedures were mandated for Arts and Science, since they estimated they would have 800 students to advise in the 2 weeks between the publication of the registration booklet and the registration deadline. Rather than trying to move up the date of the booklet, he said he supported the proposed resolution because it would give them the flexibility they needed to work out the details.

Senator Ackerman asked what was known about how well other institutions handle advisement. Provost Campbell responded that some colleges require advisor's signatures for all students, and that Arts and Science was the only one on campus which did not. Senator Beasley said he thought the procedures would insure that the advisement process was taken seriously, and he asked why it was only being required for freshmen. Prof. McLaughlin said the procedures seemed to place the University in an "in loco parentis" role, which he thought was inappropriate with students after the freshman year. He asked whether requiring advisors' signatures would add to the confusion on drop/add day. Senator Frey responded that this had been discussed at a DUSC meeting, and the feeling had been that there were problems with advisement in some colleges, and the policy looked like a good start on a solution, but that drop/add day should be explained to new students. Senator Brown suggested that one solution to the problems in Arts and Science might be to better apportion the advisees among the departments.

Responding to a question from Senator Thompson, Dean Greenfield said that, although there were occasional loopholes in the current advising system in Engineering--which requires an advisor's signature--it did help students graduate on time; he added that having the advisor forward the form would be even better, and he thought the proposed procedures were both good and workable and would help the students get to know someone on the faculty with whom they could talk when they had problems.

Senator Kraft made a motion, which was seconded, to amend the resolution by deleting the last clause, beginning with "and be it further resolve." The motion to amend was approved by a hand vote, 25 for and 18 opposed.

Discussion returned to the resolution as amended, and Senator Ackerman asked whether there was any evidence that the proposal would resolve the complaints about advisement. Provost Campbell objected that with the procedural guidelines removed the resolution had become meaningless. Senator Beasley said he thought there would be confusion as to whether there is any consistency in the policy, and that he would like to know what was meant by procedures which "guarantee meaningful contact." Senator Kraft said he would not oppose adopting a reworded format as part of the resolution if it were made University-wide.

There was no further discussion; President Smith called for a hand vote and the amended resolution, as follows, was approved.

WHEREAS freshmen students not closely supervised by an advisor frequently make procedural and/or course selection errors in the enrollment process, as evidenced (among other things) by an unacceptably high Drop/Add rate; and

WHEREAS student/advisor contact serves both to avoid the above-mentioned problems and to facilitate the student's growth and development at the University; and

WHEREAS no Senate approved policy specifically regarding the advisement of freshmen currently exists; and

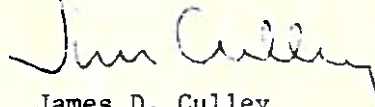
WHEREAS the Executive Committee of the University Faculty Senate has been made aware of significant faculty concern regarding these issues in general and a recently suggested procedure for freshmen advisement in particular, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED

that each college, in consultation with its departments (where such exist) shall develop a set of written procedures which: (a) serve to guarantee meaningful contact between all freshmen students and their advisors, and (b) are then implemented by these units.

No new business was introduced, and President Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 5:30.

Respectfully submitted,



James D. Culley
Secretary
University Faculty Senate