

REGULAR MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

October 7, 1985

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the University Faculty Senate was called to order on Monday, October 7, 1985, at 4:00 p.m., with President Soles presiding.

Senators not in attendance were:

Norman Brown	Selcuk Guceri
Donald Crossan	Svend Holsoe

Senators excused were: Edith Anderson, Alexander Doberenz, Wallace Dynes, Louise Little, Frank Murray, Richard Murray, E. A. Trabant

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

President Soles requested a reversal of the two items under old business in order to consider the confirmation of Committee on Committees' appointments before considering the resolution of Senator Huddleston, and he noted the addition of names and appointments on the blackboard to the list of committee approvals.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Minutes for the May 6 and September 9, 1985 meetings of the University Faculty Senate were approved.

III. REMARKS BY PROVOST CAMPBELL

President Soles announced that Provost Campbell would provide information at a later Senate meeting, as that information was not available to him at this time.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Soles reminded all Senators to give their name before they speak so that an accurate record could be kept of Senate proceedings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR CHALLENGE

Robert Brown, Chairperson of the Committee on Undergraduate Studies noted some editorial changes to the BALS requirements. First, the new minimum grade requirement will be 2.25, not 2.00 as printed. Second, students will be required to be "registered or prepared to register in the College of Arts and Science"

rather than required to be already in that College, in order to accommodate transfers into the program. Third, the implementation date of Fall, 1985 is correct as stated, to accommodate current students.

Chairperson Brown further noted that the A.A. and A.S. degrees being considered are within the College of Arts and Sciences only.

In the absence of any challenge, the proposed revisions were approved for the B.A. in Liberal Studies and the A.A. and A.S. degrees in the College of Arts and Science (Attachments 1 and 2 respectively).

V. OLD BUSINESS

Item A. Senator Huddleston (Political Science) moved that the Senate confirm the Committee on Committee appointments, and it was seconded. The motion carried by voice vote (Attachment 3)

Item B. Senator Huddleston moved that the resolution on University divestment of stocks of companies doing business in South Africa be adopted, and the motion was seconded.

Senator Schweizer (Chemistry) requested a roll call vote on the resolution. The motion failed 20 to 25.

Professor Boyer, (Political Science) Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on University Investments, introduced members of the Committee to the Senate, and noted that the Committee's major difference with the Trustees was not on the basis of moral considerations, but that the Sullivan Principles were ineffective in improving the situation in South Africa.

Robert R. Harrison, University Treasurer, stated that the report failed to present a balanced view by its advocacy position, although he was not questioning the committee's integrity. He noted that the Trustees will carefully consider any advice they get from the faculty, although he hoped that we could work together to provide the most beneficial assistance to South Africans.

Senator Bonner (Business Administration) asked Professor Boyer whether the Committee calculated the portion of the University portfolio which is invested in Class I companies adhering to the Sullivan Principles, according to the eighth annual report of the Sullivan Committee. Professor Boyer replied that he could not answer the question definitely. Senator Huddleston noted that the University portfolio of 47.5 million dollars in companies doing business in South Africa is overwhelmingly invested in the highest rank Sullivan companies, with only one exception. Mr. Harrison concurred.

Senator Levin (Economics) suggested that the University, to be consistent, might as well take action against other nations as repressive as South Africa. He further suggested that the University consider the creation of a research agency to study the peaceful solution of South African problems, since the current divestment motion is not particularly helpful. President Soles replied that none of Senator Levin's suggestions pertained specifically to the Huddleston motion before us.

Provost Campbell stated that the full economic impact upon the University on faculty pension funds had not been thoroughly studied, and that thoughtful faculty should perhaps consider divesting their pension plans by shifting investments from CREF into TIAA if they were not to be hypocritical.

Senator Anderson (Marine Studies) stated that divestment in American companies would not hurt them and may even help them. More direct action in the United States upon these companies would have a larger impact. Senator Blits (Education at large) insisted that we should take no funds of any kind from these companies if we vote to divest their stock. Senator R. Smith (DUSC/Undergraduate Student) suggested that we take more positive steps to assist South Africa in the solution of its problems, such as a national meeting of University Presidents to study the issue, and use divestment only as a last resort.

Senator Huddleston replied that he favored divestment as a symbolic action to send a message to both the American and South African governments, and that lesser actions would have little impact on the governments.

Senator Bonner stated that American companies in South Africa are the only hope for positive economic and political change, and that divestment would be counterproductive.

In reply to a query, Chairman Boyer noted that some universities have financially benefited after divestment. The Beacon Capital Management Investment group outperformed the Standard and Poor 500 Index, for instance. More than half of the Standard and Poor 500 do not do business in South Africa.

Senator Schweizer moved that the resolution be amended by placing a new Part I before the current resolution that would read "The University Faculty Senate finds the policies of apartheid to be morally repugnant," leaving the current resolution intact as Part II. The motion was seconded. Senators Schulz and Huddleston spoke against the motion as being too obvious to have any impact upon South Africa. The amendment failed by hand vote.

Provost Campbell suggested that Professor Boyer was wrong when he stated that the University might make a profit in divesting its portfolio of blue chip companies; other stock investments would not likely do as well in the future.

Senator Webster (Marine Studies) voiced his disappointment with the advocacy position of the ad hoc committee report, as he had expected a balanced presentation.

Senator Levin attempted to make a motion that the faculty of the University agree to indemnify the University for any losses that result from divestment, but President Soles ruled the motion out of order.

Senator Huddleston noted that black spokesmen in South Africa advocate divestment, and they are knowledgeable about the situation in that nation.

Senator Ames (Urban Affairs) voiced his disapproval of the advocacy position of the ad hoc committee report. He was also concerned that the faculty was passing the buck on to the Board of Trustees without more specific

recommendations such as selective divestiture. President Soles defended the Committee, suggesting that it had met its charge to study the Huddleston resolution and was not expected to study alternatives.

Senator Ahrens (Textiles, Design & Consumer Economics) and Senator Gouldner (Arts and Science) asked if selective divestment was possible. In reply, Senator Huddleston suggested that the process of divestiture was not the province of the Senate but of the Trustees, although he hoped that the University would divest fully.

Senator Brucker (Business and Economics) asked whether partial divestment included refusal to invest in corporations that do not subscribe to the Sullivan Principles. Senator Huddleston replied that the problem is that the Sullivan Principles are not effective in producing change and give the illusion that we have accomplished something by demanding that companies adhere to them.

The following resolution passed after President Soles broke the tie produced by a hand vote:

WHEREAS, the Government of the Republic of South Africa continues systematically to deny fundamental human rights to the vast majority of the South African People, and

WHEREAS, investments by American corporations have, directly and indirectly, abetted policies of apartheid by providing support for the South African economy, and

WHEREAS, the University Faculty Senate finds such policies of apartheid to be morally repugnant,

BE IT RESOLVED

that the University Faculty Senate urges the officers and trustees of the University of Delaware to divest the University of stocks, bonds, and other holdings in all corporations that have investments in the Republic of South Africa.

VI. New Business

Item A. Robert Brown, Chairperson of the Committee on Undergraduate Studies, explained the resolution from his Committee which would change present requirements on assigning communication conditions. At present, a faculty member cannot give an F to a student if a communication condition is also given. This policy precludes the faculty from distinguishing between a student's mastery of course content and the student's ability in English composition. Senator Bellamy (Mathematics) supported the change.

The question was called, and the following resolution passed by hand vote:

WHEREAS: in most cases it is possible to distinguish clearly failure to master course content from failure to demonstrate adequate English composition skills; be it therefore

RESOLVED: that the present regulation governing the University Writing Center and faculty grading practices, namely, that a student may not be given a Communication Condition based on work in a course for which an "F" grade is received, is rescinded.

Item B. No other new business was introduced.

Following the motion from the floor to adjourn, President Soles declared the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Dutifully submitted,



Robert Taggart
Secretary
University Faculty Senate

RT:rg

- Attachments:
1. Revision for the B.A. in Liberal Studies
 2. Revision of the A.A. and A.S. Degrees in the College of Arts and Science
 3. Committee on Committee Appointments

