

REGULAR MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

September 14, 1987

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the University Faculty Senate was called to order on Monday, September 14, 1987, at 4:00 p.m., with President Toensmeyer presiding.

Senator not in attendance was: Joseph Glutting

Senators excused were: Virginia Ahrens, David Ermann, Helen Gouldner, Svend Holsoe, Melinda Kwart, William Pulliam, Stuart Sharkey, Donald Sparks, Stephen Thornton, Carolyn Thoroughgood

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Executive Committee requested that the agenda be approved with one change: A new item, "Revision of the Effective Date of the Multicultural Course Requirement," be inserted as Item B under "Old Business." Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved as amended.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The following confirmations to Senate committees were added to the minutes of the May 1987 meeting:

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES: Chairperson, Ivo Dominguez

UNDERGRADUATE RECORDS AND CERTIFICATION: Anna Ciulla

FINE ARTS AND EXHIBITIONS: Delete: Carolyn Freed

Add: Rosemary Hooper

Hearing no other comments, the minutes were accepted as corrected.

III. REMARKS BY PRESIDENT JONES

1. The intent of a two-year project called "Project Vision" is to have each academic and administrative unit complete a self-evaluation process for identifying "the current strengths and weaknesses of the University and to look forward as to what might be changed to make improvement."
2. Project Vision consists of three stages, each of which is to be completed within a specific time frame. The programmatic stage focuses upon "looking at the teaching function, the research function, the service function, and then such logistics and boundary condition concerns as what is the student mix." A boundary condition to be emphasized is taking "the Report of the Commission on Undergraduate Education and have it apply to each academic unit, as opposed to trying to apply it at the total University level." Guidelines for conducting the planning process will be forwarded to academic and administrative units in October 1987. Mr. Ray Peters has been asked to coordinate the

planning efforts of the President's office. Input into program planning is expected from deans, chairs, faculty and students. Data collected as a result of this stage will be processed by the President's office from June to December 1988.

The second stage will focus upon "personnel ... and space and facilities planning." This stage will include considerable involvement of the "central administration .... and Trustee committees such as the Grounds and Buildings ... to help to sell the eventual list of requirements to the full Board of Trustees and various constituencies beyond them." The second stage is expected to take the latter half of 1988. The boundary condition to be applied is that each academic and administrative unit is to analyze priorities in terms of three models. One model assumes that a unit has an "additional 10 percent resources, space, dollars, and people available" for the next year. A second model assumes each unit "is capped with no growth or no decrease in the immediate following year." A third model consists of assuming a 5 percent cut in resources.

The third stage consists of fund planning. This stage will focus upon attracting external funding from private sources and the continuation of State support for meeting programmatic needs, especially capital needs. This third stage should be performed during the latter half of 1988. (Attached to the minutes are copies of slides used during the presentation by President Jones.)

3. The Provost and various administrative directors around the University will be holding a series of budget hearings that will enable the President and others to interact as attempts are made to develop the FY89 budget.
4. Several "administrative adjustments" have occurred as a new administrative team is being created. Dr. Edward Nolan, presently on leave from the University of Colorado at Boulder, will be assisting in putting together "a communications program that will, among other things, have a monthly column in the Review" and result in a continuous flow of information to the media. Dr. Harvey Stone of the University of Massachusetts will work in the area of "distance learning or video outreach." Consideration is being given to "bringing in one senior appointment--a Vice President for Administration," who will be responsible for buildings and grounds and several other support areas. Also joining the President's staff for this year as an ACE Fellow is Dr. Beth Oberst from Cleveland State University.
5. Dr. Toensmeyer and Provost Campbell have been asked to suspend the Council on Program Evaluation (COPE) process for this year in order to "not overload the system" and to determine whether "mid-course corrections or adjustments might, in fact, be appropriate in the COPE process."
6. Senators are invited to a reception at 47 Kent Way following the Senate meeting.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. President Toensmeyer recognized Provost Campbell who introduced the new Associate Provost for Instruction, Dr. Edward Pierce, effective July 1, 1987. Dr. Pierce is the former director of the Allied Programs and Associate Dean of the Medical School at Indiana University. He is presently a professor in the School of Life and Health Sciences at the University.
2. President Toensmeyer announced the names of the members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Senate Organization. Serving as chairperson is John Pikulski. The members include: Robert Brown, Philosophy; Carol Hoffecker, History; Anna DeHaven, Nursing; Jeffrey Raffel, Urban Affairs; Robert Dalrymple, Civil Engineering, and Provost Leon Campbell. The Committee is to report back at the end of this academic year as to its recommendations on the committee structure of the Senate.
3. President Toensmeyer indicated the dates of future Senate meetings to be held in Room 110 Memorial Hall at 4 p.m. These dates are:

October 5, 1987  
November 2, 1987  
December 7, 1987  
February 1, 1988  
March 7, 1988  
April 4, 1988  
May 2, 1988

Dates for the General Faculty meetings are:

October 26, 1987 - 130 Smith Hall  
April 18, 1988 - (Room to be announced)

4. President Toensmeyer reminded the Senators that two unexcused absences from Senate meetings will result in replacement procedures being initiated.

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR CHALLENGE

President Toensmeyer, upon recommendation of the Executive Committee, suggested that the charge assigned to the COPE Committee be suspended for one year and that a reevaluation of that charge be undertaken by the Senate Coordinating Committee on Education and the new Ad Hoc Committee on Senate Organization. These two committees will be expected to work in conjunction with each other and report back to the Senate with recommendations as to what course of action should be undertaken relating to COPE responsibilities. Hearing no objections, this procedure was accepted.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Item A was the election of Senate Secretary. President Toensmeyer reported that Professor Susan McGrath resigned as Secretary of the Senate. Professor James Morrison agreed to be placed on the ballot as a nominee for this position. Hearing no additional nominations from the Senate floor, a vote was taken. Professor Morrison was unanimously elected Senate Secretary.

Professor Toensmeyer noted that the Senate may desire to consider changing the process currently in effect for generating the minutes of Senate meetings. The current responsibilities of the Senate Secretary appear to be extremely time-consuming, requiring at times up to 15 hours to generate minutes of a Senate meeting. It was suggested that a possible solution could be shortening the length of the minutes by only recording those items that were passed by the Senate including any votes taken. President Toensmeyer asked Senators to consider the merits of such a proposed change.

Item B was the resolution recommended by the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate on a revision of the effective date of the multicultural course requirement previously approved.

President Toensmeyer indicated that the resolution, as previously passed, on May 4, 1987, approved the multicultural course requirement with the graduating class of 1991. However, it is incorrect to make such a requirement on a new class at that time. Therefore, the correct version should have included the year 1992.

Following no discussion of the changes proposed, the following resolution was unanimously approved:

*RESOLVED, the addition of a multicultural course requirement to the baccalaureate degree curricula shall be effective with the graduating class of 1992, i.e., the next year's freshmen.*

[The text of the resolution adopting the multicultural requirement is in the Senate minutes of May 4, 1987.]

Item C was a request from the Committee on Committees (A. DeHaven, Chairperson), for Senate confirmation of committee appointments. The following resolution was unanimously approved: (Copy of committee appointments is in Attachment 2.)

*RESOLVED, that the appointments to Senate committees, as presented in Attachment 1 of this Agenda, are hereby confirmed.*

Item D were resolutions from the Committee on Committees (A. DeHaven, Chairperson), altering the charges of the Committee on Adjunct Academic Affairs, the Committee on Committees, the Committee on Academic Ceremonies, the Committee on Research, and the Committee on Graduate Studies.

After President Toensmeyer indicated specific changes in the resolutions being proposed, each of the following resolutions were unanimously approved:

1. *RESOLVED, that the charge to the Committee on Adjunct Academic Affairs as it appears in Section III, I-14, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the Faculty Handbook be changed to read:*

*It shall consist of five faculty members, one of whom shall be chairperson; an appointee of the President; two undergraduate students; and one graduate student.*

*It shall meet at least annually with the Assistant Provost for Special Sessions, with the Assistant Provost and Director of the Division of Continuing Education, the Director of the College Bound Program, the Supervisor of the University Awareness Program, and with the Directors of any other like Unit or Program. The committee may call such additional meetings with Directors as it deems appropriate and shall call a meeting at the request of a Director.*

2. *RESOLVED, that the charge to the Committee on Committees as it appears in Section III, I-16, paragraph 1, of the Faculty Handbook be changed to read:*

*This committee shall have general oversight of the committee system of the faculty. It shall regularly review the system and may make recommendations to the faculty or its Senate concerning faculty organization at all levels. It is authorized directly to constitute on an interim basis such subcommittees, task forces, or study panels as may be requested by faculty committees to help carry out their work, in each case promptly recording through faculty or Senate minutes the membership and charges of such subgroups. It shall prepare, for action by the faculty or its Senate, slates of nominees for the standing committees of the faculty, except where nominations and elections or appointments are otherwise explicitly provided for, and also for such ad hoc or other committees as the faculty or its Senate may specify. Upon request from the President of the University, it shall propose faculty names for University bodies s/he is preparing to appoint, in the nature of staff assistance without implying a position of the faculty regarding such bodies.*

3. *RESOLVED, that the charge to the Committee on Academic Ceremonies as it appears in Section III, I-14, paragraph 2, of the Faculty Handbook be changed to read:*

*It shall consist of an appointee of the President; four faculty members of whom one shall be appointed by the President and be designated committee chairperson and Faculty Marshal; and one undergraduate and one graduate student.*

4. *RESOLVED, that the charge to the Committee on Research as it appears in Section III, I-23, paragraph 2, of the Faculty Handbook be changed to read:*

*This committee shall consist of the Associate Provost for Research; and five faculty members of whom one shall be chairperson.*

5. *RESOLVED, that the charge to the Committee on Graduate Studies as it appears in Section III, I-20 and I-21, paragraphs 3 through 8 of the Faculty Handbook be changed to read:*

*The Faculty Senate Committee on Graduate Studies shall periodically receive from the Associate Provost for Graduate Studies a review of the status of each department's program of graduate studies and appropriate recommendations for any action that may be deemed necessary. In addition the affected unit or units shall be afforded an opportunity to review and comment on the Associate Provost's review. Such comments from the unit shall also be transmitted to the Graduate Studies Committee. The Graduate Studies Committee shall prepare its own recommendations pertaining to periodic reviews of individual graduate programs.*

*On the recommendation of the Associate Provost for Graduate Studies this committee shall certify to the President students who have completed the requirements for advanced degrees and upon whom the faculty, with the approbation of the Trustees, is conferring such degrees; such certification shall be entered into the minutes of the faculty or its Senate.*

1. *The faculty members of the Graduate Studies Committee shall be selected by the Senate Committee on Committees from among experienced scholars of the faculty, who shall possess established reputations in their fields, a strong commitment to the highest graduate standards, and experience with various types of graduate degree programs.*
2. *The Chairperson of the Committee on Committees shall annually solicit nominations for service on the Committee on Graduate Studies from the Associate*

*Provost for Graduate Studies, the Provost, and other sources.*

3. *The Committee shall consist of a chairperson and one representative from each college offering a graduate program, serving for three-year terms to be arranged in sequence such that the terms of no more than four members shall expire in any academic year. In addition, there shall be two ex officio members, the Associate Provost for Graduate Studies and the Director of the University Library. There shall be two graduate student members appointed. In the absence of a duly constituted graduate student government the Committee on Graduate Studies shall have the responsibility of arranging the election of graduate student senators. Members as they retire from the Committee shall be replaced by members with the new period of tenure.*
4. *The Chairperson of the Graduate Studies Committee shall be selected by the Committee on Committees, and shall be confirmed by the Senate for a two-year term. Nominations for this position shall be taken from a register maintained by the Faculty Senate Office of persons who have served at least one previous term of membership on the Graduate Studies Committee.*

Item E was a resolution introduced by Senator Nancy Sottos (Graduate Student) at the May Senate meeting on the initial implementation of a four-year exploratory study of the plus/minus grading system.

Senator Nancy Sottos indicated the need to conduct a preliminary study which could be helpful in gaining information which could be useful for implementing the plus/minus grading system "before it actually starts ... up and affects students." A following discussion clarified the commencement date of the study to be Semester 88A and the need for the present computing system to be capable of implementing the plus/minus grading system.

Professor Charles Marler suggested that the resolution be rejected for three reasons: (1) The Records Office does not have the resources to administer "two separate grading systems" at one time, "one plus/minus and one straight letter grade;" (2) If the study of the plus/minus system is not to be University-wide, then a thorough evaluation required in such a study will not result; and (3) It may be beneficial to wait until computer capability is available for data collection and not "further fragment" the process by relying upon departments to gather required information for evaluation purposes. In a further discussion of data collection procedures, Leo Taske, (former Graduate Student Senator), reiterated the focus of the resolution was on implementing the plus/minus grading system "on a departmental basis." He further stated that "it's not going to be a mandatory system for the entire University." Mr. Taske noted the possibility of

using an opscan form to be completed by those departments participating in the plus/minus grading system as a means for easily collecting data. An initial start-up date for such data collection is expected to be the Spring 1988 semester.

Additional discussion focused on the difficulty of gathering the necessary data for evaluation purposes, the kinds of questions proposed to study, the "target date" by which the computer will be ready for utilization, and the process for communicating grades to students. Senator Hugh Frick noted that the "motion on the floor conspicuously (did) not include a criteria for success or failure" as relating to the preliminary study under discussion.

Senator Joseph Ritter made a motion to table the resolution under discussion until the next Faculty Senate meeting "in order to work out ... implementation details." The motion was defeated.

After a brief discussion of language changes, the following resolution was defeated with three abstentions noted:

WHEREAS: The plus/minus grading system is realistically at least one year away from its initial implementation, and

WHEREAS: It is understood that the computer system does not yet have the capability of recording plus/minus grades, and

WHEREAS: The plus/minus grading system will undergo a mandatory four-year study period to examine its effects on grade point averages, and

WHEREAS: A transition period will be needed for the adoption of the plus/minus grading system by the entire faculty, and

WHEREAS: The plus/minus grading system does not have the entire University faculty support; be it therefore

RESOLVED: That the plus/minus grading system shall be implemented on a departmental basis only beginning with the 1988 Fall Semester final grades and shall be used solely for the purpose of the four-year exploratory study. The standard straight letter grades will continue to be used for official transcript purposes until the new computing system is activated.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

Item A was the election of a chairperson of the Committee on Committees from among the committee members elected by the Senate. After no further discussion, Professor Frank Dilley was elected chairperson by unanimous vote.



Hearing no further comments or requests, President Toensmeyer entertained the motion to adjourn at 5:15 p.m.

Dutifully submitted,



James L. Morrison  
Secretary  
University Faculty Senate

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Attachment:

1. Slides from President Jones' Presentation
2. Senate Committee Appointments

