

REGULAR MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

October 2, 1989

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the University Faculty Senate was called to order on Monday, October 2, 1989 at 4:00 p.m. with President Dilley presiding.

Senators not in attendance were: David Ames, David Bellamy, Larry Peterson, Peter Roe, James R. Soles, Robert Straight

Senators excused were: Donald Conlon, Donald Crossan, Bernard Herman, Vahan Janjigian, Vistasp Karbhari, Ellen McFadden, David Nelson, David Payne-Carter, Stuart Sharkey, Gregory Stephens, David Usher

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

President Dilley announced a change in the published agenda. In the unavoidable absence of the chairperson of the Senate's Ad Hoc Committee on Honorary Degrees, he asked that the issue (Item C, New Business) be deferred to a later meeting of the Senate.

Hearing no comments or objections the remainder of the agenda was approved as distributed.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

President Dilley offered two corrections to the Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting of September 11, 1989. Page 3, paragraph e., the sense of the Senate motion, should have read as follows:

The Faculty Senate instructs the Executive Committee to seek broad legal counsel in formulating the policy on promotion and tenure.

The Senator seconding Senator Blits' successful motion was Senator Sandler. The minutes, as corrected, were approved.

III. REMARKS BY PRESIDENT TRABANT

President Trabant addressed the Senate on three matters of importance to the University community. The first relates to the presence of overt expressions of homophobia, both in and outside the classroom, as reported by representatives of gay and lesbian students. Such insensitivity is said to be widespread. President Trabant stated the view that such expression is a threat to our stated goal of encouraging community diversity, the protection of people's rights and an end to prejudice. He asked the Senate's cooperation in putting an end to this form of prejudice.

The second matter was a report on enrollment. In spite of having accepted 400 fewer freshmen this year a higher than anticipated number of returning students makes this year's total enrollment of 20,477, the largest in the University's history. Undergraduate enrollment of 14,546 is also a record. The plan to reduce freshman enrollment will continue, by at least 100 for 1990's class, so that the anticipated decrease should be felt in the near future.

The final matter in President Trabant's report was an announcement and description of the largest construction program in the University's history. The project encompasses the following:

1. Construction of three new dormitories, each accommodating approximately 112 beds, in the area including Ray Street, North College and Cleveland Avenues. The purpose is to alleviate overcrowded facilities on campus and in Newark. This project will also include renovation of three dining halls and enlargement of the health center. While the cost of the combined projects is expected to be \$20 million, the University expects to issue bonds in the amount of \$50 million; the remainder of which will be used to retire existing housing and dining hall bonds. New bonded indebtedness will thus be \$20 million with earned revenues from residence and dining pledged in payment of interest and principal.

The University is attempting to get its bond rating as high as possible before issuance of the bonds.

2. Construction of a sports/convocation building currently sited at the south end of Delaware stadium. The building is to be used for basketball, concerts, convocation, winter commencement and, possibly, volleyball. There will also be weight rooms. There are no plans to use it for trade shows and conventions. The anticipated cost of the project is \$18 million, at least \$6 million of which is to come from the private sector and the remainder from the State of Delaware through issuance of state bonds.
3. Construction of a new Chemistry/Biochemistry/Marine Science building currently sited to adjoin Brown, at an anticipated cost of \$20 million. For this project it is planned that at least \$3 million should come from the private sector and the remainder from the issuing of state bonds. Ground breaking for these last two projects is expected in Spring 1990 with completion for all three by 1992. Architectural firms will be selected on a competitive basis and the University has appointed Charles Brown, retired chief engineer of the Du Pont Company as Adjunct Engineering Officer and Wayne Suiter, a retired engineer, as Project Manager.

President Trabant also announced, in answer to a question, that there are no immediate plans to construct a theater, though renovations of Mitchell Hall are in the works.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Dilley made the following announcements:

1. The Committee on Graduate Studies will be holding an open hearing on October 24 at 3:00 p.m. in the Blue and Gold Room of the Student Center to discuss the proposal for a Master of Music in Performance degree.
2. There are as yet few nominees or volunteers for the Ad Hoc Committee on Divestment. Nominations or volunteers should be made known to Jon Olson, Chairperson of the Committee on Committees and Nominations.
3. The revised Affirmative Action Policy has been issued and an Ad Hoc Review Committee has been appointed with the following members: Betty Haslett, Communications; Costel Denson, Chemical Engineering; Tai Liu, History; Carole Marks, Black American Studies; Juan Villamarin, Anthropology, and Robert Warren, Urban Affairs and Public Policy. The Ad Hoc Committee is charged by the Senate to hold a public hearing with the University Affirmative Action Officer and to solicit opinion from the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission to Promote Racial and Cultural Diversity, as well as to carry out a general review of the draft policy in light of the November 7, 1988 resolution of the Senate calling for development of a strong affirmative action policy.

While various concerns were expressed about the point at which the contract mandated 60-day period began or would begin, President Trabant sought to assure the Senate that it is in the interest of all members of the University community that an effective policy be developed and agreed upon even if it requires more than the mandated 60 days.

In response to several questions about the choice of an ad hoc committee rather than a standing committee of the Senate, President Dilley noted that no committee is specifically charged with affirmative action; appointment of the ad hoc committee by the Executive Committee resulted from the fact that the Committee on Committees and Nominations was not effectively in place at the moment when, given the 60-day time limit, it was necessary to appoint a review committee.

V. OLD BUSINESS - none.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Item A was a recommendation from the Council on Program Evaluation (R. Wolters, Chairperson), with the concurrence of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee for confirmation of committee appointments and a modification to the General Procedures for COPE.

WHEREAS, the General Procedures for COPE, as approved by the University Faculty Senate, provide that "The Council on Program Evaluation will consist of eight tenured faculty members appointed by the Provost with the concurrence of the University Faculty Senate," therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate confirm the following nominations for COPE:

- 1. Robert Brown (Philosophy)*
- 2. James Crouse (Educational Studies)*
- 3. Joan DeFattore (English)*
- 4. Kenneth Lewis (Economics)*
- 5. Arthur Metzner (Chemical Engineering)*
- 6. Jerold Schultz (Materials Science)¹*
- 7. Raymond Wolters, Chairperson (History)*

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED,

that the General Procedures for COPE be modified to read as follows: "The Council on Program Evaluation will consist of seven tenured faculty members appointed by the Provost with the concurrence of the University Faculty Senate, and the Associate Provost for Graduate Studies, who will serve as an ex-officio member of the Council."

Item B was a recommendation from the Executive Committee of the University Faculty Senate on the creation of a committee or committees on budget and space priorities. In the ensuing discussion and a show of hands some sentiment was expressed that the membership of such a committee should be constituted of persons with a broad overview of the University, such as is the case with the COPE Committee. The Senate then approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, a proper role in University governance requires some regularized input from faculty on budget and space matters, and

¹Originally listed in the Agenda as being from Metallurgy.

WHEREAS, the University of Delaware lacks any such committee composed primarily of faculty, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Committee on Committees and Nominations be charged with formulating a charge for and suggesting the composition of a Senate committee or committees to advise on budget and space priorities, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the University Faculty Senate convey to the Faculty Advisory Committee its opinion that a willingness to work with Senate committees on budget and space priorities should be a matter of great concern in the selection of suitable candidates for the Presidency of the University of Delaware.

Item C was deferred (see "Adoption of the Agenda").

Item D, Introduction of New Business, was the introduction of a resolution, for consideration at the November 13, 1989 meeting of the University Faculty Senate. The following resolution, presented by Senator Teeven (DUSC) calls for a reversal of the earlier Senate decision to implement a plus/minus grading system:

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate has implemented a plus/minus grading system to commence in the 1990 fall semester, and

WHEREAS, the plus/minus system has not been adequately researched and does not necessarily provide a better evaluation of student performance, and

WHEREAS, the proposed system will not be implemented uniformly throughout the University, thereby contradicting the intention of a more consistent grading system, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the decision to implement a plus/minus grading system be reversed.

Senator Braun issued a parliamentary challenge to the proposed resolution, which challenge is to be examined by the Parliamentarian. Much of the subsequent discussion concerned the degree to which the policy would be applied uniformly by faculty and the potential effects the plus/minus system might have on grade inflation/deflation.

Senator Schweizer moved for adjournment and the Senate voted to adjourn at 5:16 p.m.

Dutifully submitted,



Kenneth Ackerman
Secretary
University Faculty Senate

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