

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE  
NEWARK, DELAWARE  
19711

UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE  
303 MULLIHEN HALL  
PHONE: 302-738-2829

January 19, 1981

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Faculty Members

FROM: Ulrich C. Toensmeyer, President  
University Faculty Senate *Ulrich C. Toensmeyer*

SUBJECT: Special Senate Meeting, January 26, 1981

In accordance with Section IV, paragraph 6(2) of the Constitution of the Faculty of the University of Delaware, a special meeting of the University Faculty Senate will be held on

Monday, January 26, 1981 at 4:00 p.m.

in

Room 110 Memorial Hall .

The provision of the Constitution of the Faculty dealing with special meetings states:

"The call of a special meeting shall state the purpose or purposes of the special meeting and no business shall be transacted other than that specified in the notice of the meeting."

The purpose of this meeting is to address the issue of the selection of films for presentation on campus.

AGENDA

A. Two resolutions, jointly sponsored by the following senators:

Sylvia F. Alderson, Margaret Benner, Theodore E.D. Braun,  
Thomas B. Brill, Eugene Chesson Jr., Merton A. Christensen,  
Maurice E. Cope, Philip Flynn, N.P. Gross, Robert Hogenson,  
Barbara J. Kelly, James W. Kent, H. Khalil, Gerard A. Mangone,  
Fred A. Masterson, Anne McCourt-Lewis, Ludwig Mosberg,  
David L. Regehr, Douglas P. Ridge, William F. Ritter,  
Karen E. Schaeffer, David W. Smith, David L. Stixrude,  
Frederick M. Swain, Margaret C. Waid, Peter Warter, John Zikakis.

RESOLUTION I

WHEREAS the faculty "shall have the care, control, government and instruction of the students" according to the Charter of University of Delaware (8 Delaware Code (1953), Title 14, Par. 5111) and the Student Program Association is a registered student organization of the University; and

WHEREAS, university facilities and university administered funds are used to subsidize the showing of films of the Student Program Association thereby making these showings a matter of students' lives as students in contrast to students' private lives as citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the faculty deplores and opposes censorship as being contrary to the philosophy of a University. Nevertheless, "community standards" should be considered in decisions concerning such events as films shown on campus, although such "community standards" may not necessarily be the overriding consideration when compared to educational considerations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the faculty encourages the members of the Films Committee of the Student Program Association to select films of serious artistic, literary, social or scientific value, and urges them to be mindful of "community standards" when selecting films.

RESOLUTION II

WHEREAS, the guidelines of advisement for student film selection which have just been adopted require careful deliberation in their initial stage of implementation;

WHEREAS, faculty input into students' life as students is entrusted to the Faculty by the University Charter and a codified forum to provide faculty input to students regarding complex issues is in accord with the best tradition of a university; and

WHEREAS, attempts to gauge community standards of the State of Delaware are better rested on an appropriate Senate Standing Committee than on individuals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Committee on Committees be directed to appoint, after consultation with the chairs of the Senate Committee on Student Life and the Films Committee of the Student Program Association, two faculty members to the Films Committee as liaison advisors from the Senate Student Life Committee. The appointments are for a single term of two years. The Committee on Student Life is directed to conduct an evaluation of this procedure by the end of the two year time period.

- B. Report and recommendations from the Committee on Student Life, K. Haas, chairperson.
- C. Report and recommendations from the Committee on Academic Freedom, M. Haskell, chairperson.
- D. Other presentations on this issue.

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January 21, 1981

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Faculty Members

FROM: Ulrich C. Toensmeyer, President *Ulrich C. Toensmeyer*  
University Faculty Senate

SUBJECT: Special Senate Meeting, January 26, 1981

The following is an addition to Items B and C of the Agenda which was distributed earlier for the Special Senate Meeting of January 26, 1981.

A resolution, jointly sponsored by the Committee on Academic Freedom and the Committee on Student Life:

WHEREAS a university is an institution built upon and dependent on mutual trust and respect among students, faculty and administration, and

WHEREAS on balance, film selection by the Films Committee of the Student Program Association, in the absence of guidelines from the Faculty, has been performed satisfactorily, and

WHEREAS some complaints were received subsequent to the showing of "The Opening of Misty Beethoven" during the Spring 1980 term, and

WHEREAS central to our mutual efforts "is the maintenance of an atmosphere conducive to the pursuit of knowledge, where risks are and should be taken" (introduction to the President's Annual Report for 1979-80), and

WHEREAS the faculty deploras and opposes censorship or the spirit of censorship as being contrary to the philosophy of a University,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the university community and the public be informed of the existence of the Films Committee of the Student Program Association, of its responsibility for selecting films to be shown on campus and of its selection process, and be encouraged to communicate with that Committee about its film selection policies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if complaints or concerns about the Committee's film selection policies are received by members of the faculty or by administrators, these persons are encouraged to forward such complaints or concerns to the Films Committee of the Student Program Association.