

MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING OF JANUARY 20, 1975

The Senate was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

Senators in Attendance: Williams, Dolive, Pinelo, Ryan, Adams, Goggin, Koehler, Wallace, Hur, Bushee, McKenney, Lindsey, Sarakatsannis, Braden, Allyn, Mullen, Corbin

In President Williams report to the Senate, notice was taken of the Council on Public Higher Education's decision to authorize Northern to grant a graduate degree in education. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved which expressed the Senate's pleasure at the news and its appreciation for the efforts of Drs. Steely, Tesseneer, Waggoner, and Melnick in achieving this goal.

The President then reviewed events dealing with the tenure controversy since the General Faculty Meeting of January 3rd. Specifically, he reported on the Regents' decision at the January 7th Board meeting not to endorse the Academic Vice-President's proposal (approved in Administrative Council) but rather to establish a special Regents' committee on tenure and notice. That committee appointed Mr. Philip Taliaferro, legal counsel for the faculty, to represent the faculty viewpoint on tenure and notice. Although the committee expressed a desire to hear from all interested parties, it established a deadline for filing written statements (without which oral presentations were not allowed) which made it impossible for Mr. Taliaferro to notify all faculty of the opportunity to present their viewpoints. In these circumstances, he met with the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate which prepared written and oral statements which were presented by Mr. Taliaferro, Dr. Jeffrey Williams, Dr. Richard Couto and Dr. Bart Braden. The oral presentations were made on January 16th at which time Dean Jack Grosse and Dr. Frank Stallings spoke on behalf of the Tenure Committee proposal and Dr. Frank Steely, Dr. Ralph Tesseneer, Dr. James Ramage and Mr. John DeMarcus were present to communicate the administration's viewpoint. Mr. Taliaferro reviewed the legal aspects of the present faculty's status. Dr. Williams communicated the results of the December 11th Senate meeting and January 3rd Faculty meeting. Dr. Braden commented on the importance for both the individual faculty member and the College of early notification of non-reappointment. Dr. Couto explained the results of a survey which showed that the de facto tenure policy of the College included a three year probationary period. Approximately 90% of the persons eligible or presently with tenure have been given a decision within three years. Moreover, of the persons eligible and who have been reviewed for tenure within the three year period, approximately 93% received tenure.

Dr. Williams reported that the Regents committee will probably be several weeks in devising a proposal for the full Board and it may call for more hearings on such topics as procedure for granting tenure.

Ms. Jean Koehler, Chairman of the Faculty Affairs Committee, suggested that faculty communicate to their departmental representatives on this committee any thoughts and opinions they might have concerning procedures for implementing and granting tenure.

Dr. Williams reported on the satisfaction of faculty members present at the Regents committee meeting with the actions of the Regents in seeking to devise a proposal which was in the best interests of the entire College community. It was also noted that the Regents had obviously taken very seriously the faculty's reservations (expressed through the Senate and Faculty meetings of December and January) with the tenure proposal approved in Administrative Council. Faculty feelings on the tenure issue had not gone unnoticed.

President Williams also reported on the continuing failure of the College to observe the state guidelines for room temperatures in Nunn Hall. During the Christmas vacation when many other academic institutions were saving fuel costs by reducing temperatures in unused classrooms to 55 and 60 degrees, the classrooms in Nunn Hall averaged 73 degrees. This month the average has gone up to 74 degrees (in contrast to the state requirement of 68 degrees). The president of the Senate was asked to continue to seek a reduction in temperatures from the Administrative Vice-President and to re-emphasize the very negative financial consequences for the entire College of maintaining unnecessary and unauthorized high temperatures in Nunn Hall.

Questions were raised as to the disposition of Dr. Tesseneer's proposed position paper to the Board of Regents at their meeting on Tuesday, January 7th. The paper specified the responsibilities of the full time teaching faculty and was to be included in the Faculty Handbook. It was explained that the Board had deferred action on the proposal with a request that Dr. Stallings be given an opportunity to receive faculty input on the statement. Ms. Koehler moved that Dr. Tesseneer and Dr. Stallings be urged to re-draft the proposal in the light of previously written and approved statements in the Faculty Handbook and the College Catalog which describe faculty responsibilities. Dr. Braden seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Warren Corbin*

Warren Corbin, Secretary