

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

FACULTY SENATE

January 30, 1978

Members present: Doris Brett, Larry Giesmann, Bill McKim, Art Miller, Janet Miller, P. E. Moore, Dennis O'Keefe, Debra Pearce, Ralph Peterson, Al Pinelo, Tom Rambo, Rose Stauss, Don Taplits, C. M. Tetzlaff, Ted Weiss.

Reorganization of the Senate

The Senate began discussion on restructuring the Senate. President Vitz noted that one of the principle changes would be the staffing of committees exclusively by Senators. Such a change would require more work for Senators while reducing involvement by non Senators. Vitz asked if Senators were willing to undertake that additional responsibility. Reducing involvement by non Senate faculty raises a problem of limiting the chances for university service which is one of the criteria considered in promotion and tenure proceedings. Pinelo responded by arguing that the responsibilities of Senators are not heavy now and that they could therefore take on more work.

Tetzlaff said that programs with relatively few faculty would have representation on only one or two of the new committees and that their interests would be overlooked. Stauss and Brett expressed similar concern. Giesmann suggested that the proposal could be amended to ensure representation for all departments by affording slots filled by non Senators on each committee which did not already have representation on the committee. Vitz noted that the principal idea behind reorganization was the elimination of parochial attitudes and the reinforcement of an overall view by the Senate on university matters. Pinelo supported the view that the Senate take a university-wide view of problems. He noted that in regard to curriculum each program would still have a voice on the curriculum committee.

Moore argued that by reducing non Senate faculty involvement, then chances for getting credit for university service would be thereby adversely affected. Pearce said that faculty already spend too much time in committees and that the reorganization plan had the virtue of giving non Senate faculty more time to devote to research and course preparation. If a non Senator wanted to get involved in committee work, he or she could do so since meetings are open to all. Peterson said the reorganization plan would improve communication between committees and the Senate.

Pinelo stressed that the issue boils down to two contrasting philosophies concerning the university. One outlook sees the university as a collection of confederacies composed of relatively autonomous departments; the other sees the university from a wholistic view in which various faculty representing diverse discipline agree on general principles which would apply throughout the university and act to benefit the entire university, not a single department.

J. Miller preferred to see more faculty involved in committee work. Brett contended that small programs might be overlooked under the reorganization plan.

A motion was made to retain the form of committee membership as presently constituted under the Faculty Senate Constitution. Motion was defeated 9-5.

Stauss spoke in favor of Giesmann's proposal to allow programs without representation on a committee to select a representative. Giesmann then made the following motion: "Every Senator shall serve on a committee and the rest of the committee will be composed of representatives from programs not already represented." Motion was approved 13-1.

A motion was made to accept the wording of Article V, A, 2 dealing with at-large elections within each cluster. Motion was approved 13-0.

A motion to change the dates for Senate-at-large elections from April 15 to April 10 of each year (Article V, A, 4) was approved unanimously. Also, the Senate approved a change in the date for election of the program Senator from April 30 to April 20. (Article V, A, 5)

A motion by Tetzlaff to delete Article V, A, 8 which provides ex officio status for administrative officials in the Faculty Senate was approved 9-3.

In regard to Article V, A, 9 a motion was introduced to amend the wording. The amendment stated: The Faculty Regent shall regularly inform the faculty through the Senate about impending business before the Regents and shall report back to the Senate actions taken by the Board. Motion was approved 11-0.

In regard to Article V, B, 1, Giesmann proposed that the Executive Committee be given responsibility to work out a procedure for nominating candidates for Senate officers. Motion was approved.

Article VI, C, 1 was amended to add the term "when appropriate" at the end of the sentence.

In regard to Article VI, G (Curriculum Committee) a proposal was made to add the following provision. "The Committee shall deal with budgetary aspects of new courses in consultation with the Budget Committee."

The Senate adjourned for a lack of a quorum.

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis O'Keefe