

JOURNAL OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

Special Session, May 12, 1969 -- 4:10 p. m.  
Student Union Building, Room 165

The University Senate, meeting in special session, was called to order by Dr. Sherril D. Christian, Chairman.

Present

Alley, John N.  
Andrews, Mildred  
Babb, Stanley E., Jr.  
Bowen, Willis H.  
Boyes, Rodney L.  
Bruce, John B.  
Canfield, Frank B.  
Christian, Sherril D.  
Ciereszko, Leon S.  
David, Paul R.  
Doerr, Arthur H.  
Elconin, Victor A.  
Elkouri, Frank  
Feaver, J. Clayton  
Fite, Gilbert C.

Present

Harden, Darrell  
Heller, Ben I.  
Goggans, Travis P.  
Hengst, Herbert R.  
Hilbert, Richard E.  
Hoy, Harry E.  
Kendall, J. L.  
Kitts, David  
Olkinetzky, Sam  
Parker, Jack F.  
Renner, John W.  
Roller, Duane H. D.  
Smith, Thomas M.  
Springer, C. E.  
Suggs, Charles

Absent

Blick, Edward F.  
Brixy, John C.  
Everett, Mark R.  
Hart, Frances  
Henderson, George  
Hollomon, J. Herbert  
Lancaster, John H.  
Nordby, Gene M.  
Pray, Joseph  
Tolson, Melvin B.  
Tuma, Gerald  
West, Kelly M.  
White, Raymond R.

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION 

Report of the Senate ad hoc Committee on Anti-Discrimination April 26, 1969

There are basically two kinds of racial discrimination: overt and covert. Overt discrimination is readily observable in such matters as hiring and housing practices, while covert discrimination is difficult to document since it is based upon racist attitudes that are not flagrantly exhibited but are expressed in a variety of subtle ways. Both overt and covert discrimination exist on most college campuses, including that of the University of Oklahoma, and both are equally corrosive. Neither condition should be encouraged or even allowed to exist. While we have not had sufficient opportunity to establish clear "cases" of racial discrimination at the University of Oklahoma, we believe that the following actions should be taken in order to improve interracial relations in the University community.

We are cognizant of intense competition for minority group faculty members. There are too few qualified scholars among minority groups to whom we can offer appointments to our faculty, and salary considerations also pose a bar to some departments when they attempt to recruit members of minority groups. Despite these difficulties, we recommend that qualified scholars of minority groups be sought out when new faculty appointments are contemplated. The University of Oklahoma should undertake a faculty exchange program with those institutions of higher education whose faculties and student bodies are predominantly composed of members of minority groups, providing that our administrators guarantee that they will not academically weaken such institutions by offering permanent

Anti-Discrimination -- continued

positions to exchange professors. A more thorough investigation should be made to attract to our campus scholars of differing cultures and nationalities through the Fulbright or other exchange programs. The federal government contains a disproportionate number of professional men and women of minority groups. The University of Oklahoma should investigate the possibility of offering visiting appointments to these qualified scholars.

Since students of minority groups are often handicapped by discrimination during their preparation for higher education, we believe that some modification of our admission standards is necessary. If natively able students cannot immediately qualify for admission to our University, remedial programs subsidized through federal funds or by University scholarships should be initiated. More comprehensive programs to identify minority students of high academic potential should be also sponsored by our University. We should make greater efforts to disseminate knowledge of programs of aid available to students of minority groups while they are still in secondary schools.

Many freshmen and especially, we believe, those from economically disadvantaged and ethnic-minority backgrounds, have difficulty in orienting themselves to an academic community. A joint committee of students, faculty, and administrators should be established immediately to solicit volunteers from selected juniors, seniors, and graduate students to serve as orientation aides at least through the freshman year. Each would be assigned one or more incoming freshmen, and each would strive to maintain close contact with and to develop a personal interest in the assigned freshman, and to initiate him or her into the social, academic, and cultural aspects of university life, advising and assisting the freshmen as would an older brother or sister.

A similarly constituted committee should be immediately established to organize a volunteer service of upperclass and graduate students for tutoring without charge academically disadvantaged freshmen who cannot afford professional tutors. Professional tutors might also be persuaded to contribute a portion of their time gratis to such freshmen.

Marked disparities in the quality of student housing accommodations associated with rent differentials automatically discriminate against low-income groups. These differentials tend to enforce de facto ethnic-group segregation. Substandard student housing should be eliminated at once, and the University should move as rapidly as possible toward the democratization of housing facilities--i.e., reduction or elimination of differences in the quality and cost of student housing, and the provision of rent subsidies where needed.

Opportunities for students to participate in programs of study abroad or in guided foreign tours are at present restricted to those who can pay their own way. These opportunities should be made available to all students, regardless of ethnic or economic background, who have the competence and motivation to profit from them. In a democratic society, privileges of educational value should not be reserved for the affluent.

The University should provide "on-the-job" training courses in secretarial skills for wives of students, students, or individuals not associated with the University of Oklahoma who are members of minority groups to qualify them for employment in University or other offices. Fees for this training should be waived when circumstances warrant.

Anti-Discrimination -- continued

To reduce the incidence of practices and attitudes that are subtly and even unconsciously discriminatory, we urge that the University provide through the Southwest Center for Human Relations seminars and workshops for counselors, athletic staff, housing office and employment service personnel, faculty, and others for thoroughgoing discussions of inter-group relations. Experts in problems of economic and ethnic minorities from the staff of the SWCHR, from civic and governmental agencies, and from other appropriate sources should be secured to lead these seminars and workshops.

The University Senate should establish a permanent special committee charged with the following responsibilities:

1. The committee should be informed on all initiatives undertaken or contemplated by the University administration, through campus and academic programs, in anticipating needs and demands of all minority student groups and individuals. The committee should make every effort to coordinate its efforts with, and exchange information with, the University Human Relations Committee.
2. The committee should consult with all minority groups and attempt to formulate programs appropriate for University Senate initiatives.
3. The committee should regularly report its findings and information to the Senate and make recommendations when advisable.

The committee should be appointed by the President of the Senate who should select for appointment those faculty members who have an interest and concern in fulfilling the responsibilities of the committee. When appointed, the faculty committee should, after consultation with appropriate student groups, invite student representatives equal in number to faculty membership to join in the committee's investigations, deliberations, and recommendations. These student representatives should form, with the faculty membership, a joint committee to carry out the committee's duties.

Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Anti-Discrimination

John N. Alley                      Paul R. David  
George Henderson                Mrs. Lennie-Marie Tolliver  
Donald J. Berthrong, Chairman

Senate Action

The University Senate on May 12 noted and accepted the foregoing report relative to discrimination on the campus. Consideration of its content was tabled until the Senate meeting on May 26.

MILITARY UNITS NEAR OR ON THE CAMPUS ✓

Report from the Senate Student and Public Relations Committee      May 12, 1969

The Senate Student and Public Relations Committee recommends University Senate approval on the following resolution of the Student Congress:

Military Units Near or on the Campus -- continued

Whereas the University community is very concerned that the situation seems to exist in which the National Guard can be called to the campus without the request of the President of the University, therefore,

Be it resolved that, the students of the University of Oklahoma request that the President of the University, the Board of Regents, the University Senate, and the University of Oklahoma Student Association call this concern to the Governor's attention.

Passed by the Student Congress April 21, 1969.

Senate Student and Public Relations Committee

John N. Alley  
J. C. Feaver

Gerald Tuma  
Sam Olkinetzky, Chairman

Senate Action

Professor Olkinetzky presented the foregoing report. Following a brief discussion, he moved that the University Senate endorse the resolution of the Student Congress. His motion was seconded and PASSED.

Following additional discussion, Professor Olkinetzky moved approval of the following resolution:

Be it resolved that, the University Senate strongly believes that military and state police units should not be sent to the University of Oklahoma campus in any circumstance without a request for such action by the President or the Acting President of the University. The Senate requests that this resolution be transmitted through appropriate channels to the Governor.

The resolution was approved. Twenty-two persons voted YES, one ABSTAINED, and five voted NO.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE ATHLETIC COUNCIL ✓

Explanatory Comment

On April 28 a Student Congress Resolution relative to the membership of the Athletic Council was brought before the University Senate. Following discussion of it, a motion was passed to ask President Hollomon to withhold action relative to the membership of the Athletic Council until the Senate could study the matter.

The matter was then referred to the Senate Committee on Academic Standards.

Report of the Senate Committee on Academic Standards

May 12, 1969

The Senate Committee on Academic Standards recommends the following:

The membership of the University of Oklahoma Athletic Council shall be eight tenure-holding faculty members, five students, one of whom shall be a varsity letterman, and two alumni to be appointed to alternating two-year terms, in addition to such ex-officio non-voting members as the Council deems necessary.

Membership of the Athletic Council -- continued

Senate Action

Dr. Suggs, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Academic Standards, commented on the development of the foregoing recommendation relative to membership of the Athletic Council. He moved that the University Senate oppose the recommendation of the Student Congress that the membership of the Athletic Council be four faculty members, four students, one representative of the President's Office and such ex-officio non-voting members as the council deems necessary; and approve the senate committee recommendation as provided above. His motion was seconded.

Dr. Hengst moved to amend the motion to the effect that the length of terms of membership be maintained as they now are for faculty and student members of the Council. His motion was seconded and PASSED.

The main motion by Dr. Suggs, as amended, was passed.

R O T C ✓

Explanatory Comment

On April 28 consideration of ROTC and related services was raised from the floor of the Senate. Study of this matter was referred to the Senate Committee on Academic Standards.

Senate Action

On May 12, Dr. Suggs, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Academic Standards, indicated that his committee will continue to study matters relating to ROTC into next year. A full report may be expected in the Fall of 1969.

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS ✓

Explanatory Comment

On April 11, President Hollomon asked the University Senate promptly to undertake a study of admission standards used throughout the United States and at the University and to recommend those changes that are believed to be in the best interest of the society we serve and to the University.

On April 15, the Chairman of the University Senate referred this matter to the Senate Committee on Academic Standards. On April 28, Dr. Suggs reported that his committee was at work.

Report from the Senate Committee on Academic Standards

May 12, 1969

In order to afford opportunity to the very bright student, the following exception to regular admission requirements should be recommended to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education:

Undergraduate Admission Requirements -- continued

A student of any fully accredited high school in Oklahoma, who has not graduated, but who has completed fourteen units of acceptable high school work, may be admitted upon recommendation of his high school principal, provided he ranks within the top twenty-five percent of his class, and provided he scores within the top twenty-five percent on an academic aptitude test administered by the University.

Dr. Suggs moved that the foregoing statement be approved by the University Senate. His motion was seconded.

Dr. Renner moved to amend the statement by changing "administered by" in the last line to acceptable to. His motion was seconded and PASSED.

The main motion by Dr. Suggs, as amended by Dr. Renner, was PASSED.

The committee will continue to study other possible modifications of admission standards.

PROVOST SEARCH AND SELECTION COMMITTEE

Letter from President Hollomon to the Chairman of the University Senate

April 28, 1969

The Report of the Committee on the Provost and Academic Organization dated April 15, 1969, recommended a new position of Provost of the University, implementing the recommendation of the Future of the University on the Provost. A copy of this report is enclosed.

The Committee also recommended the establishment of a Provost Search and Selection Committee to consist of eleven members, the chairman and five of whom are selected upon nomination by the University Senate and five of whom are selected upon nomination from the Student Congress.

I intend to accept and make public the Committee's report regarding the Provost. Before doing so, however, I would appreciate the prompt nomination of two faculty members for the chairman and ten faculty members for possible membership to the Provost Search and Selection Committee.

Senate Action

On May 12, the Executive Committee of the University Senate submitted a list of nominees for the Provost Search and Selection Committee. A brief discussion disclosed certain discrepancies in the list. Dr. Doerr moved that the list be tabled until the Executive Committee has contacted all on the list for their willingness to serve. His motion was seconded and PASSED. This matter will again be considered on May 26.

ADJOURNMENT

The University Senate adjourned at 5:08 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, May 26, 1969, at 4:10 p.m.

Gerald A. Porter, Secretary