

JOURNAL OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE
The University of Oklahoma
Norman

Regular Session - December 13, 1971 - 3:30 p.m.

Room 165, Student Union Building

The University Senate was called to order by Dr. Rufus Hall, Chairman.

<u>Present:</u>	Bibens, Robert	Gregory, Helen	Milby, T. H.	Stuart, Chipman
	Bogart, George	Grunder, Robert	Miller, Fred	Taylor, K. L.
	Bourassa, Ronald	Hali, Rufus	McNichols, William	Truex, Dorothy
	Brown, Homer	Hardin, Neal	Norton, Spencer H.	Upthegrove, Wm.
	Burwell, James	Johnson, B. Conner	Olson, Ralph E.	Walker, Dallas
	Christian, Sherril	Kuhlman, Richard	Owens, Mitchell	Weinheimer, A.J.
	Costello, James	Levy, David	Potter, Emma J.	Weiss, A. Kurt
	Crim, Sarah	Livezey, William	Prickett, Wilson	Whitney, David
	Daniels, Raymond	Love, Tom	Shahan, Robert W.	Wilcox, Stewart
	Eliason, Stanley	Lutz, Raymond	Sims, James H.	Wilson, William
	Feaver, J. Clayton	Lynn, Thomas N.	Snow, James B.	Zahasky, Mary
	Frueh, Forrest	Maehl, William	Sokatch, John R.	Zelby, Leon W.
	Gibson, Arrell	Marshall, Geoff	Stone, George T.	
 <u>Absent:</u>	 Abell, Creed	 Hansen, Robert	 Hopla, Cluff E.	 Shepherd, Gene
	Eek, Nat S.			

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Journal of the University Senate for the regular session on November 8, 1971, was approved.

ACTION TAKEN BY PRESIDENT SHARP

University Equal Employment Opportunity Committee. On November 30, 1971, Dr. Paul F. Sharp, President of the University, approved the election of Dr. Chipman Stuart (Education) as the faculty representative to the University Equal Employment Opportunity Committee. (See pages 6 and 7 of the University Senate Journal for November 8, 1971.)

ACTION TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, UNIVERSITY SENATE

Dr. Thomas Broce, Executive Assistant to the President, addressed the following request to the Chairman of the University Senate on November 10, 1971:

"The University's Board of Regents today approved the report and recommendation submitted by President Sharp on organization and management of student publications. This recommendation had been submitted to the President by the Publications Board. A copy of the approved report is attached. As you will note, your organization is to have a representative on the Board. We request that your organization submit its recommendation, following standard University procedure, to the President for appointment as soon as possible. Because of pressing business the Publications Board should be activated as soon as possible. Election of spring editor should be held in early December. Your cooperation is appreciated."

The University Senate Committee on Committees nominated the following faculty members for the faculty-at-large position on the Publications Board:

David Vann Smith (Business Communication)
John Wickham (Geology)

On November 23, 1971, the Executive Committee of the University Senate approved the above faculty nominations that were, in turn, immediately submitted to the President's Office, on behalf of the University Senate.

TIAA-CREF RETIREMENT PLAN

Professor David Whitney, Chairman of the University Senate on University Organization, Budget and Publications, on December 1, 1971, submitted the following self-explanatory memorandum to the members of the University Senate:

- "The Senate Committee on University Organization, Budget, and Publications spent a substantial amount of time last year with the development of a sounder and more realistic retirement plan than is currently available to the Faculty. The resulting TIAA-CREF plan was adopted by the Senate and subsequently approved in principle by the administration and the Regents.
- "Contributions to the plan were to have begun this September (after postponement of a January, 1971, start).
- "During the week of November 1, inquiry to Dud Giezentanner about the plan brought the response that it had been decided to postpone implementation of the plan for budgetary reasons.
- "The Senate and the Faculty were not consulted when this ostensible commitment was unilaterally abrogated by the administration without even a hint that the reversal was being considered, to say nothing of the failure to announce that the plan was dropped.
- "More important, however, is the need that the Faculty be apprised of the fact that this plan has not been implemented. Considering the budget prospects for next year and presumably for the next several years, it is not likely to be implemented for some time, unless a significant change in budget priorities transpires.
- "Since the University's present practice of supplementing Social Security and Oklahoma Teachers' Retirement benefits to the level of 1/2 salary is under legislative scrutiny and attack, the Faculty is exposed to the truly pitiful prospect of retiring on Social Security and Oklahoma Teachers' Retirement alone. This amounts to the magnificent sum of slightly more than twice the Social Security Benefit.

"The TIAA plan will require long-term participation before it begins to approach the equivalent of the University supplement, and the longer it is delayed the more grievous the consequences to Faculty retirement."

(See pages 6 and 7 of the University Senate Journal for February 22, 1971.)

Professor Whitney, Chairman of the University Senate Committee on University Organization, Budget, and Publications, commented briefly on the intent of his memorandum reproduced above--i.e., to bring to the attention of the faculty the apparent unilateral decisions of the University administration in a matter of vital interest to the faculty.)

UNIVERSITY PATENT POLICY

Dr. A. J. Weinheimer, Chairman of the Senate ad hoc Committee on University Patent Policy, commented on several aspects of the four-page report of that Committee that was distributed to individual Senate members in advance of the December 13, 1971, meeting. He also reported that a request had been received shortly before this meeting from the Office of the University President to postpone final Senate action in this matter pending receipt of additional input from that office.

Accordingly, Dr. William Upthegrove moved that this matter be tabled until the January 10, 1972, meeting of the Senate. In a voice vote, the tabling motion was approved without dissent.

UNIVERSITY FINANCIAL SITUATION

Background Information: Dr. Ronald R. Bourassa on October 21, 1971, submitted a request for Senate investigation of the University's financial situation. (See page 4 of the University Senate Journal for November 8, 1971.) That proposal was referred to the University Senate Committee on University Organization, Budget, and Publications for study and recommendations.

Senate Action: Professor David Whitney, Chairman of the University Senate Committee on University Organization, Budget, and Publications, moved adoption of the following report of that Committee:

"The Committee recommends that the University Senate organize and carry out a thorough investigation of the University Budget including:

- "a. The distribution of the current budget
- "b. The criteria used for that distribution
- "c. What is the decision process

"The goal of that investigation should be to make recommendations for reorganization wherever appropriate."

At this point, the attention of the Senate was called to the fact that a proposed reorganization of University Councils was listed on the agenda under "New Business" later in this meeting.

Dr. A. J. Weinheimer, therefore, moved that this question be tabled until the University Council reorganization is considered by the Senate. The tabling motion was approved without dissent.

UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY FOLLOWING DALLAS FOOTBALL GAME WEEKEND

Background Information: On October 15, 1971, Dr. John Lancaster suggested to the University Senate that the Monday following the Dallas football game weekend be substituted for Labor Day as an official University holiday. (See page 5 of the University Senate Journal for November 8, 1971.) This matter was referred to the University Senate Committee on University Organization, Budget, and Publications for study and recommendations.

Senate Action: Professor David Whitney, Chairman of the University Senate Committee on University Organization, Budget, and Publications, moved approval of his Committee's recommendation that the Monday following the Dallas football game weekend not be substituted for Labor Day as an official University holiday. He cited the following two reasons for the disapproval of Dr. Lancaster's proposal: (a) The President of the Student Congress would still retain the right to request one holiday so that the semester schedule could still be upset and (b) The Committee did not want to take unilateral action, particularly with respect to the interests of the University staff in this matter. In a voice vote, the Senate accepted the motion to reject the proposed change in University holidays.

Immediately thereafter, Dr. William Maehl, Jr., moved that an appropriate Senate Committee study the broad question of revising the fall semester schedule so as to provide for a desirable midsemester break and, if necessary, shorten the holidays at other points of the schedule for the fall semester. In a voice vote without dissent, the Senate approved the motion to study the problem further. The Chairman of the University Senate then referred the matter to the University Senate Committee on Courses and Curricula for study and recommendations.

REGENTS POLICY MANUAL: Faculty Personnel Matters

Background Information: On October 29, 1971, Dr. Pete Kyle McCarter, University Provost, called attention of the Senate to three policy statements concerning faculty personnel matters that appear in the Regents Policy Manual under dates of September 15, 1942; May 25, 1948; and May 23, 1951. In his opinion, the three statements merited Senate consideration for either rescission or modification. The request was referred to the University Senate Committee on Faculty Personnel. (See pages 7 and 8 of the University Senate Journal for November 8, 1971.)

Senate Action: Dr. David Levy, Chairman of the University Senate Committee on Faculty Personnel, moved acceptance of his Committee's recommendation that the three policy statements in question be deleted from the Regents Policy Manual. With one dissenting vote, the Senate approved the motion.

TEACHER EVALUATION

The University Senate Committee on Teaching and Research was recently requested to study all aspects of the teacher evaluation question. (See page 6 of the University Senate Journal for October 11, 1971.)

Dr. Ray Daniels, Chairman of that Committee, presented a progress report in which he reviewed the Committee's deliberations to date and also discussed the results of an informal poll of the various colleges on the campus. Apparently, with few exceptions, very little is being done with formal evaluation of either courses and/or teachers. The Committee is concerned that proper emphasis be given this program to improve the quality of instruction. The final report of this Committee should be ready for the January 10, 1972, meeting of the Senate.

UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENTS

Background Information: On August 17, 1971, Dr. Pete Kyle McCarter, University Provost, requested Senate reconsideration of the new University policy concerning faculty attendance at commencements. The question was referred to the University Senate Committee on University Organization, Budget, and Publications. At the October 11, 1971, meeting, the University Senate tabled action on a pertinent report from that Committee. In view of the many related aspects to this complex question, the Chairman of the University Senate referred this matter to the University Senate Committee on Student and Public Relations for further study and recommendation. (See pages 3 and 4 of the University Senate Journal for October 11, 1971.)

Senate Action. Dr. Dorothy Truex, Chairman of the University Senate Committee on Student and Public Relations, moved acceptance of the following Committee report:

The Committee recommends that an all-university summer commencement be discontinued. The Committee also recommends that there be one commencement per year, in the spring, and that all faculty members be required to participate unless excused by the Chairman (Director, Dean)."

Dr. James Burwell then moved that the word encouraged be substituted for the word required in the second sentence of the report.

After some discussion, Dr. Truex agreed to divide the original report into two items. The Senate with one dissenting vote approved the first part; i.e., that the all-university summer commencement be discontinued.

Voting subsequently on Dr. Burwell's admendment, the University Senate rejected the proposed substitution of the word encouraged.

During the ensuing discussion, faculty responsibility in participating in such academic functions was repeatedly stressed. Dr. George Stone then moved that the second recommendation be amended as follows:

FROM: ". . . per year, in the spring, and that all faculty members be required. . ."

TO: ". . . per year, in the spring. It is a responsibility of all faculty members to participate in the commencement."

With 32 affirmative and 12 negative votes, the Senate approved the amendment. Immediately thereafter, the Senate approved with some dissent the original motion as amended:

"The Committee also recommends that there be one commencement per year, in the spring. It is a responsibility of all faculty members to participate in the commencement."

DEPARTMENT "C" BUDGETS: Office Equipment Charges

Dr. William Maehl, Jr., Chairman of the University Senate Committee on Courses and Curricula, presented an interim report concerning office equipment charges in departmental "C" budgets. Mr. Norman McNabb of the General Services Office, has been interviewed and several inquiries have been made regarding outside suppliers. The Committee expects to have a full report ready for the January 10, 1972, meeting of the Senate. (See page 8 of the University Senate Journal for November 8, 1971.)

ELECTION CRITERIA. University Senate Members

The University Senate Committee on University Organization, Budget, and Publications was recently requested to study the desirability of changing current criteria for the election of University Senate members.

Professor David Whitney, Chairman of that Committee, moved acceptance of that Committee's recommendation (approved by a vote of 6 to 2) that the Charter of the General Faculty and the University Senate be changed as follows:

Page 1, The University Senate, Composition:

"Full-time administrative personnel above the department level shall be excluded from future elections to the University Senate."

After some discussion of this question, the Senate approved the change in the Charter by a vote of 31 to 12. The consensus of the Senate was that, if approved by the General Faculty and the Regents, the change would not be retroactive.

(PLEASE NOTE: The Charter of the General Faculty and the University Senate stipulates that consideration of an amendment of the Charter by the General Faculty "shall not occur until the expiration of 30 days after the notification of the General Faculty through the Journal of the University Senate." The required notice is hereby given in advance of the spring meeting of the General Faculty.)

MIDSEMESTER UNSATISFACTORY GRADE REPORTS

Background Information: Dr. Pete Kyle McCarter, University Provost, on November 19 1971, requested Senate review of the current University regulation that requires the gathering and the mailing of unsatisfactory midsemester grade reports:

"Midsemester grade reporting has been a topic of debate, here and elsewhere, for several years. Faculty attitude, as expressed to me, seems to be generally negative to the practice. Sentiment is being voiced to the effect that, since the University has all but forsaken the role in loco parentis in so many other areas of student life, there is little justification for continuing it in this area.

"Recent studies as to the effectiveness of reporting unsatisfactory grades at midsemester indicate minimum benefit to the student. A very small fraction of the student body are involved and, for those who are, final grades differ very little from the midsemester ones.

"To gather and report the midsemester unsatisfactory grades is an inordinately expensive process for the benefit to be derived. In light of current concerns, I am asking the University Senate to review the regulations requiring this activity and submit a recommendation relative to eliminating the regulation before a new semester opens."

This matter was referred to the University Senate Committee on Student and Public Relations.

Senate Action. Dr. Dorothy Truex, Chairman of the University Senate Committee on Student and Public Relations, moved approval of the following recommendations of that Committee:

"That a general collection and mailing to students and parents of unsatisfactory (D and F) grades be discontinued, but that first-semester freshmen and their parents be informed of midsemester U's, D's, and F's."

Dr. Truex reported on a conference with Dean Weber of the University College who strongly favored the reporting of such grades to first-semester freshmen but did not want his office burdened with the task of collecting and mailing the unsatisfactory midsemester grade reports. Professor Whitney then moved that the second clause (i.e., ". . . but that first-semester freshmen and their parents be informed of midsemester U's, D's, and F's") be deleted. In a voice vote with some dissent, the Senate approved the deletion of the second clause.

As thus amended, the recommendation to discontinue the gathering and the mailing of midsemester unsatisfactory grade reports was approved by the Senate with one dissenting vote.

REORGANIZATION OF UNIVERSITY COUNCILS

Earlier this fall, the University Senate Committee on Committees was requested by the Chairman of the University Senate to study possible revisions of the various University Councils and Committees.

The final report of that Committee was reproduced on pages 7 through 10 of the Agenda for this meeting of the Senate.

Current Senate By-Laws require that proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Senate one month in advance and a copy of the amendment shall be distributed to Senate members two weeks in advance of the meeting at which the voting is to take place. Accordingly, no final action on the Committee report could be taken at the December 13, 1971, meeting.

Some Senate members objected to the alleged adversary tone and posture of the proposed changes and urged tact and diplomacy in faculty-administration relationships. Others, however, strongly felt that such faculty self-assertion and initiative were both appropriate and timely.

Dr. Hall, Chairman of the University Senate, announced that this question would be the first order of business at the January 10, 1972, meeting of the Senate. He also requested individual faculty members, whether members of the Senate or not, to submit written comments, suggestions, and criticisms as soon as possible to Dr. Geoff Marshall, Chairman of the University Senate Committee on Committees.

ADJOURNMENT

The University Senate adjourned at 5:50 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m., on Monday, January 10, 1972, in Room 165 of the Student Union on the Norman campus.

Anthony S. Lis
Secretary

