

JOURNAL OF THE FACULTY SENATE (Norman campus)
The University of Oklahoma

Special (Executive) Session -- February 20, 1978 -- 3:30 p.m.

The Faculty Senate was called to order by Dr. Donald C. Cox, Senate Chairperson, in Room 165, Oklahoma Memorial Union.

Present:

Artman	Calvert	Gillespie	Kunesh	Rasmussen
Atherton	Carmack	Hackler	Kutner	Reynolds
Bishop	Christian	Herrick	Larson	Rowe
Blick	Coulter	Hood	Lee	Saxon
Braver	Cox	Huettner	Lis	Scheffer
Brown	Dewey	Joyce	McDonald	Thompson, Steve
Caldwell	Foote	Kitts	Murray	Walker

Absent:

Crim	Goff	Lancaster	Rice	Snell
Crites	Hill	Lewis	Seaberg	Thompson, Gary
Davis	Hockman	Merrill	Shahan	Yeh

(Secretary's note: In accordance with precedent, attendance at this special meeting will be used to offset an absence during the current academic year. Conversely, members of the Senate will not be charged with absence on this date.)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>page</u>
Declaration of "Executive Session" status	1
Search Committee for the President	2

DECLARATION OF "EXECUTIVE SESSION" STATUS

Dr. McDonald moved that, as authorized by Senate By-Laws, this special meeting be declared an "executive session" in view of the personnel matter to be discussed; i.e., faculty representation on the Presidential Search Committee.

Professor Davis stated that in her opinion the agenda topic was not truly a personnel matter and, as an "advocate of openness in government," urged defeat of the motion.

The Senate Chair reiterated that Senate By-Laws authorize "executive sessions" by majority vote.

Professor Kutner commented that the State Attorney General had ruled that the new "open meetings" law does not apply to groups like the Faculty Senate. Professor Davis, nevertheless, implored the Senate to set an example.

The motion was approved in a tally of 20 affirmative and 9 negative votes.

At this point, Professor Davis left the meeting in protest.

SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR THE PRESIDENT

Background Information: At a "faculty town meeting" on February 14 (see page 3 of the Senate Journal for February 13, 1978), the Norman campus general faculty approved the following recommendation for Senate consideration:

"The Town Meeting recommends that the Faculty Senate withdraw its faculty nominees to the Presidential Search Committee and that all other faculty be urged to refrain from participation on the Search Committee until it is composed of a clear majority of faculty chosen from a list nominated by the Faculty Senate."

The vote on the above resolution was 111 for and 5 against, with 14 abstentions.

According to the press reports on February 15, the composition of the Search Committee was changed to provide for (1) an additional faculty member to represent the Tulsa branch of the Health Sciences Center and (2) two non-voting Norman campus faculty alternates--Professors Martin Jischke (a Senate nominee) and David Golden. At the same time, the Regents also announced that Professor Eugene Kuntz had been appointed Chair of that Committee.

Senate Action: Dr. Cox, Senate Chair, formally presented the above "town meeting" proposal to the Senate for its consideration.

Dr. Kunesh then moved that the Senate vote neither to withdraw its nominees nor to ask those individuals to withdraw from the Presidential Search Committee.

During the ensuing discussion, nine Senators voiced their support, in varying degrees, of the motion. The consensus was that the recent action by the Regents appeared to accommodate some of the faculty concerns and that asking the nominees to resign from Committee service would subject them to undue and undesirable pressure for individual action on their part. Furthermore, several Senators expressed the opinion that many of those who had voted for the "town meeting" resolution on February 14 now feel that their previous action had produced some results and that faculty interests would henceforth best be served by the increased faculty representation on the Search Committee. No opposition to the motion was expressed from the floor. Several Senators, however, urged the Senate to take due cognizance of the fact that 111 faculty members had voted for the February 14 resolution.

The Senate subsequently approved the motion, with 30 affirmative and 3 negative votes.

Dr. Kunesh next moved that the Senate Chair be requested to address the next "town meeting" of the Norman campus general faculty to explain the reasons for the Senate action at this meeting on the February 14 recommendation. With one dissenting vote, the Senate approved the motion.

Dr. Foote moved that the Faculty Senate gather opinions as to faculty concerns about Regents' goals and activities and then discuss them with the Regents in an informal meeting arranged by the Senate officers. Following a brief discussion, the Senate rejected this proposal.

Professor Lee then moved that an appropriate message be addressed to the Regents to apprise them formally of the February 14 "town meeting" resolution and all of its implications, as well as to inform them of the Senate action at this meeting. That communication, although conciliatory in tone, should re-emphasize the continuing faculty displeasure with the recent turn of events so as to impress the Regents with the gravity of the situation.

Dr. Blick suggested that the Senate request that the final selections of the Search Committee be ratified by the Senate. Several Senators countered with the reaction that such a procedure would reflect unfavorably on the competence and the integrity of the faculty representatives on that Committee.

Dr. Christian moved that the Senate recess for 15 minutes and that the Chair appoint a small Committee to prepare an appropriate statement for the Senate to consider after the recess. The motion was defeated 19 to 9.

Dr. Bishop then offered the friendly amendment that the Senate Executive Committee be given the task of preparing the appropriate message to the Regents.

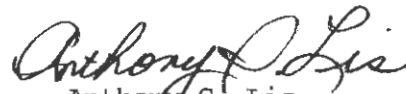
Subsequently, in a 22-to-8 vote, the Senate approved the motion with the above addition.

Dr. Cox, Senate Chair, announced that the next edition of the Senate newsletter, the Forum, will feature the action taken by the Senate at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The Senate adjourned at 4:50 p.m. The next regular session of the Faculty Senate will be held at 3:30 p.m., on Monday, March 20, 1978, in Dale Hall 218.

Respectfully submitted,



Anthony S. Lis
Professor of
Business Communication
Secretary, Faculty Senate