

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

Regular Session -- April 10, 1978 -- 3:30 p.m. -- Dale Hall 218

The Faculty Senate was called to order by Dr. Donald Cox, Chairperson.

Present: Christian  
Artman Cox Joyce McDonald Seaberg  
Atherton Crim Kunesch Merrill Shahan  
Bishop Dewey Kutner Murray Snell  
Blick Foote Lancaster Rasmussen Thompson, Gary  
Braver Goff Larson Reynolds Walker  
Caldwell Herrick Lee Rice Yeh  
Calvert Hill Lewis Rowe  
Carmack Hood Lis Saxon

Provost's Office representative: Langenbach

AUOPE representatives: Burger Cowen

Absent:  
Brown Crites Gillespie Hockman Kitts Thompson, Steve  
Coulter Davis Hackler Huettner Scheffer Toothaker  
AUOPE representatives: Campo Guyer James Timmons  
UOSA representatives: Bruton Gold Stilwell  
Foster Magnus  
AGSE representative: Jones

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## ANNOUNCEMENT: Spring semester meeting of Norman campus General Faculty

The General Faculty on the Norman campus will hold its spring semester meeting at 3:30 p.m., on Thursday, May 4, 1978, in Adams Hall 150. The meeting has been rescheduled because of an unexpected conflict in President Sharp's calendar.

## ANNOUNCEMENT: University Regents' Meeting - April 13, 1978

Dr. Cox, Senate Chair, noted that the next meeting of the University Board of Regents will be held at 10:30 a.m., on Thursday, April 13, in Dining Room 5, Oklahoma Memorial Union. He reminded the Senate members that Regents' meetings are open to the public and encouraged interested faculty members to attend the April 13 session.

## ANNOUNCEMENT: April 20 meeting of Oklahoma University/College Faculty Governance Systems

The spring meeting of faculty governance systems in state and private universities and colleges throughout Oklahoma will be held all day, Thursday, April 20, 1978, at the Oscar Rose Junior College in Midwest City. The theme for this session will be "Retrenchment: Learning How To Live With It." Interested faculty members are encouraged to attend. Further details may be obtained by calling the Senate office any morning. (See page 4 of the Senate Journal for November 14, 1977.)

## ACTION TAKEN BY UNIVERSITY REGENTS: Exclusion of School of Home Economics from Program Discontinuance Policy

On March 21, 1978, President Paul F. Sharp reported to the Senate Chair that no action was taken by the Board on this matter at the March 9 meeting and "it was accepted as a communication only." (See page 26 of the Senate Journal for February 13, 1978.)

## ACTION TAKEN BY PRESIDENT PAUL F. SHARP: Search Committee, VP, Administrative and Financial Services

In responding to the pertinent Senate action of March 20, President Paul F. Sharp included the following comments in his March 23 letter to Dr. Donald Cox, Senate Chair:

"This is an important question that has been raised by several individuals and groups. In view of this concern, I have discussed the matter carefully and at length with the University Regents. The decision is that they want us to move ahead with the search, and I concur. As I have indicated to others, we cannot leave a position as important as the Vice President for Administrative and Financial Services uncovered particularly when we face changes in the positions of President and Norman Provost. In addition, it is unfair to ask anyone to serve in an interim capacity for the length of time that would be required if we were to suspend the search until a new President is appointed. This could have an effect of someone being in that spot on an interim basis for up to a year and one-half.

"Please understand that we have given serious thought to the question of whether the search should continue under all the circumstances. We appreciate the concern of the Faculty Senate, but when all of the factors are weighed against each other, it seems best to continue with the search."

(See Senate Journal for March 20, 1978.)

## ACTIONS TAKEN BY SENATE CHAIR

(1) Exclusion of School of Home Economics from Program Discontinuance Policy: In accordance with Senate instructions, Dr. Donald C. Cox, Senate Chair, addressed the following letter on April 5 to Dr. Bob G. Mitchell, President, University Board of Regents:

"As you know, at the March 9, 1978, meeting, the Board of Regents of this University 'accepted as a communication only' the February 13 recommendation of the Faculty Senate (Norman campus) that no academic unit be excluded from the Program Discontinuance Policy.

"At its last meeting, the Faculty Senate (Norman campus) voted to express to you its concern and disappointment over the lack of response by the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents to our recommendation of February 13, 1978.

"We strongly urge the Regents to give this extremely sensitive issue further consideration. In view of the University's current financial and enrollment crisis, the lack of utilization of the Program Discontinuance Policy in considering any program for either modification or discontinuance will be viewed with alarm by all segments of the University community. The policy provides mechanisms for fair and studied judgments in making any discontinuance decisions; therefore, any decisions not based on the rigorous procedures stated in that policy would be regarded as suspect.

"The Senate is hopeful that the Regents will give our concerns serious consideration and will act in the best interest of all University programs."

(See page 5 of the Senate Journal for March 20, 1978, and related Regents' action on page 2.)

(2) State Regents' Proposal for Development of Planning and Management Programs: On March 17, 1978, Provost Barbara S. Uehling addressed the following memorandum to the Senate Chair regarding comprehensive planning and management programs at state system universities and colleges:

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In October, the State Regents sent us a letter indicating procedures and guidelines for the development of comprehensive planning and management programs at state system colleges and universities.

In that letter they indicated that institutional state systems should prepare and submit to the State Regents on or before July 1, 1979, a comprehensive planning and management plan for the five-year period, 1981-1985/86. They indicated that the plans shall include but not be limited to the following major components: (a) student enrollment projections for the years 1980-1985; (b) an educational program plan including plans for the systematic elimination of declining instructional programs and anticipated shifts in program emphasis; (c) a faculty development component which should address issues of tenure proportions, age and sex distributions, opportunities for early retirement, and other such issues; (d) an operational budget component showing how the institution would react in the event of budgetary decreases, city/state budgetary allocations, or continuing budget increases.

I think it vital, and I'm sure you agree, that faculty have an adequate opportunity to have an input into this document. I had thought that the information would follow from the Committee for the Future I was planning to appoint.

In view of the need to put together such statements by Spring of 1979, do you think it would be useful to continue with the committee I had earlier proposed? I would be happy to discuss this with you at any time.

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Dr. Cox, Senate Chair, on March 24 responded as follows to the above communication:

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After considering your memo of March 17, 1978, on the development of comprehensive planning and management programs, I feel that existing standing committees and councils should be utilized to address some or all issues appropriate to their charges. Most of the components mentioned in your memo are appropriate for discussion and recommendation by specific councils and committees.

Such action would not only provide an opportunity for faculty input but also make effective use of the various councils and committees by the administration in a manner and spirit consistent with their specific charges. In fact, if appropriate input on some of these issues is not solicited, I am certain that the faculty would feel that

prescribed governance procedures were once again being bypassed. However, I would not personally object to establishing a committee to coordinate the recommendations of various councils and committees and to address itself to issues not appropriate to those groups.

I would be happy to discuss this matter with you further, and I am sure that the other members of the Senate Executive Committee would also be interested in participating in such a discussion.

ACTION TAKEN BY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Proposed Academic Misconduct Code, Norman campus

On March 22, 1978, President Paul F. Sharp addressed a request to both the Senate Chair and the UOSA President for Senate and UOSA advice concerning a 21-page proposal for Academic Misconduct Code and Procedures for the Norman campus.

The Senate Executive Committee on March 28 agreed to refer this matter to an ad hoc Committee for a report to the Senate early next fall. Dr. Cox, Senate Chair, reported that the administration does not object to this schedule.

SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT: Spring joint meeting of OU/OSU Executive Committees

Dr. Cox, Senate Chair, reported on the March 21 joint meeting in Stillwater of the Executive Committees of the OU Faculty Senate and the OSU Faculty Council.

Profs. Cox, McDonald, Lis, Christian, Joyce, and Kunesch represented the OU Senate Executive Committee. OSU participants included the following:

Profs. Donald Wagner (Animal Sciences)  
 Gerald Lage (Economics)  
 John Thomas (Plant Pathology)  
 Lester Johnson (Veterinary Medicine)  
 Linville Bush (Animal Sciences)  
 Clinton Keeler (English)  
 George Jewsbury (History)  
 Geoffrey Pill (Foreign Languages)

At the "very interesting and fruitful session," the following common problems were discussed:

- (1) Enrollment trends at both institutions
- (2) Pass/No Pass enrollment option
- (3) Faculty evaluation of administrators
- (4) The proposed Energy Resources Center, Norman campus
- (5) Student evaluation of instructors
- (6) The Graduate Assistant Handbook

ENERGY RESOURCES CENTER

Background Information: At its March 20, 1978 session, the Faculty Senate voted to request the University administration for a written report concerning the current status of the Energy Resources Center, Norman campus. At the same time, the Senate agreed to extend an invitation to Provost Barbara S. Uehling to address the Senate concerning this matter at the April 10 meeting. (See pages 6 and 7 of the Senate Journal for March 20, 1978.)

On March 31, President Paul F. Sharp acknowledged the Senate request with the comment, "We will do what we can to see that the report is prepared in time for your April 10 meeting."

Because of a schedule conflict, Provost Barbara S. Uehling asked Dr. Charles Mankin, Interim Director of the Energy Resources Center, to address the Senate on April 10 in her stead.

(Senate Secretary' note: The administration's report was received on April 12 and was distributed to the members of the Faculty Senate on April 13.)



Senate Action: Dr. Charles Mankin, Interim Director of the Energy Resources Center, appeared before the Senate to present the requested status report on the project.

He outlined the history of other energy-related projects on this campus and mentioned comparable centers at other institutions throughout the country. He also referred to the forthcoming written report to be submitted to the Senate momentarily.

The Center will have the following primary missions:

- (1) Coordinating faculty/staff expertise and University facilities.
- (2) Contributing to solution of state and national energy problems.
- (3) Providing information to officials in government and industry.

Other proposed activities include research and training.

In Dr. Mankin's words, the funding mentioned in the original proposal "has been significantly pared down." The State Regents have requested a special allocation of \$300,000 from the Legislature for the 1978-79 fiscal year. Some private funding has already been committed; more is expected. He emphasized that Provost Uehling still intends that the Center become self-supporting through external research grants and support from state agencies that will be utilizing data supplied by the Center. Much of the planning is still in the formative stage with nothing "set in concrete at this time."

The search for the Center Director will continue perhaps until the new administration takes office.

At present, plans are being made to use "seed money" for research activities initially in the areas of geology, geophysics, and petroleum engineering.

In the question-and-answer period that followed his informal presentation, Dr. Mankin reiterated that the \$300,000 will not be a part of the OU E&G budget. If not used for the intended purpose next year, the money (\$300,000) will go to the State Regents for general distribution among all state institutions.

Provost Uehling insists that no E&G money be used for this Center. Dr. Mankin stated that he obviously could not predict what the policy will be under the new administration.

The ERC is to be an administrative mechanism for focusing on one area with great opportunities. Dr. Mankin foresees a complementary role for ERC in its relationships with the Science and Public Policy organization.

The administrative staff is expected to include a full-time Director, a full-time secretary, and a part-time individual responsible for proposal preparation.

Dr. Cox expressed the Senate's appreciation to Dr. Mankin for the informal oral report.

PRELIMINARY REPORTS: Senate ad hoc Committees on "position papers"

Background Information: For the past several months, five Senate ad hoc Committees have been preparing "position papers" in specific areas of faculty concern on this campus. (See page 7 of the Senate Journal for October 10, 1977.)

Copies of the preliminary reports of four Committees were distributed on April 6. The remaining Committee report was distributed at the April 10 Senate meeting.

Senate Action: Dr. Cox, Senate Chair, called on the following Committee Chairs for additional pertinent comments:

- Drs. Kenneth Merrill - Budgetary Priorities
- Ronald Snell - Salary/Fringe Benefits
- Roger Atherton - Faculty Governance
- William Carmack - Image of the University
- John Lancaster - Educational Priorities

Although questions were raised concerning every report, most of the discussion dealt with the reports on the University image and salary/fringe benefits.

There was consensus that the final report on the University image should include only the body of the report (Introduction, Findings, and Recommendations). Furthermore, a notice will appear at the end of the report to the effect that copies of the questionnaire, the statistical summary, and the interpretation may be obtained from the Senate Secretary, OMJ 242.

Senate consensus also favored the inclusion of an overall introduction to the compilation of the five individual reports, as well as an appendix to include additional statistical data about Big Eight salaries, fringe benefit programs, and the like.

Formal action was taken only in connection with the report on salaries and fringe benefits. Dr. Snell moved that the Senate go on record as recommending that the University of Oklahoma develop a plan to allow children of faculty members to attend the University without paying tuition. Subsequently, Professor Crim moved to amend that motion to add "and spouses." As amended, the motion was approved by the Senate in a 26 to 7 vote.

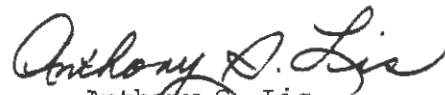
Later, Professor Lewis moved that, in lieu of the last two recommendations (tuition waiver and expanded medical benefits), the Committee draft a general statement urging that the existing plan be implemented and upgraded so as to be competitive at least with the rest of the Big Eight schools and to leave the wording to the discretion of that Committee. Without dissent, the Senate approved the motion.

Dr. Cox, Senate Chair, announced that he would contact the Committee Chairs shortly about coalescing the final report for Senate action at the May 1 meeting. He thanked the Committee members for their efforts in this important task.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The Senate adjourned at 5:26 p.m. The next regular session of the Faculty Senate will be held at 3:30 p.m., on Monday, May 1, 1978, in Dale Hall 218.

Respectfully submitted,



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