

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

Regular session -- January 16, 1984 -- 3:30 p.m., Conoco Auditorium,
Doris W. Neustadt Wing, Bizzell Memorial Library.

The Faculty Senate was called to order by Dr. Robert A. Ford, Chair.

Present:

Atherton	Cozad	Gross	Larson	Schmitz
Benham	Davis	Harrington	Lehr	Seaberg
Black	DuMont	Hawley	Levy	Smith
Bredeson	Ford	Hayes	Lis	Sonleitner
Cameron	Gollahalli	Hengst	Magrath	Stevens
Canter	Goodman	Karriker	Murphy	Tharp
Biro	Grant	Knapp	Pflaum	Uno
Conner	Green	Kutner	Reynolds	Whitmore

Provost's Office Representative:

Ray

PSA Representatives:

Boehme

Corcos

Guyer

Powers

Skierkowski

McCarley

Liaison, Women's Caucus: Williams

GSA Representatives:

Baldwin

Absent:

Beesley	Hauser	Love	Nicewander	Whitely
Christian	Howard	Nuttall	Wedel	
UCSA Representatives:	Albert	Stanhope	Rodriguez	
GSA Representatives:	Larson			
Liaison, AAUP:	Turkington	Liaison, ABP:	Butler	

Guest: Regent Dan Little

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Announcement: Election of Senate replacements	2
Action taken by University Regents:	
Norman campus tenure policy	2
Action taken by President Banowsky:	
Faculty replacements, University groups	2
University budget crisis	2

ANNOUNCEMENT: Election of Senate replacements.

The following replacements have been elected recently for Senate vacancies by the colleges listed below:

College of Arts and Sciences:

John Biro (Philosophy) to complete the term of John Catlin
(1983-85).

Kenneth Wedel (Social Work) to complete the term of Janet Mills
(1981-84).

College of Geosciences:

Maryellen Cameron (Geology) to complete the term of the late
Rex Inman (1983-85).

ACTION TAKEN BY UNIVERSITY REGENTS: Norman campus tenure policy.

On December 15, 1983, the University Board of Regents approved the following amendment to paragraph 3.7.2 (d) of the Norman campus tenure policy, with deletions lined through and additions underscored:

"It is understood that a faculty member who has been granted tenure by the University of Oklahoma and thereafter changes from a full-time appointment to a volunteer or part-time faculty appointment ~~on other than a temporary basis~~ forfeits tenure status, unless the change is temporary or results from the faculty member's being in phased retirement.

(Please see the Senate Journal for November 14, 1983.)

ACTION TAKEN BY PRESIDENT BANOWSKY: Faculty replacements, University groups.

On December 14, 1983, President William S. Banowsky approved the Senate election of Professors Roger Frech and Donna Young as faculty replacements on the Research Council and the Campus Planning Council, respectively.

(Please see page 4 of the Senate Journal for December 12, 1983.)

UNIVERSITY BUDGET CRISIS

Background information: On December 12, 1983, the Faculty Senate instructed its Executive Committee to appoint an ad hoc committee to study "furlough alternatives."

(Please see pages 6 and 7 of the Seante Journal for December 12, 1983.)

Accordingly, the following Senate ad hoc Committee was appointed:

Sherril Christian (Chemistry)
Jim Constantin (Marketing)
George Cozad (Bot/Micro), Chair
Junetta Davis (Journalism)
Gail de Stwolinski (Music)
Jeff Kimpel (Meteorology)

Jim Laguros (CEES)
David Levy (History)
Edmund Nuttall (Communication)
Ted Roberts (Law)
Tom Selland (Architecture)
Assoc. Provost Joseph Ray (ex officio)

Senate action: Professor Ford, Senate Chair, presented a chronology of events following the December 12 Senate meeting, at which time the Senate instructed its Executive Committee to prepare some proposals to be considered at the special meeting on January 30.

He mentioned the Budget Council's proposal (similar to the Senate proposal) that had been submitted to President Banowsky, as well as his acknowledgment thereof.

He called attention to several memoranda distributed by the administration in connection with implementing the Regents' furlough plan.

On December 22, the Regents invited members of the Senate Executive Committee to join their breakfast session on January 12. On January 11, President Banowsky requested that the Senate ad hoc "Furlough Committee" also be invited to the session. President Banowsky followed Professor Ford's advice not to distribute copies of his draft proposal but instead to make an oral presentation at the breakfast meeting. The Senate Chair, in responding to some faculty reaction, assumed the blame "for any error in judgment."

In Professor Ford's opinion, the breakfast meeting was "very cordial with a frank exchange of views and opinions" by the Regents and the faculty members present.

He also reported the receipt of a letter dated January 13 from President Banowsky indicating that the Regents were inviting a faculty response for their consideration at their next regular meeting at the Health Sciences Center on the morning of February 9, with the stipulation that any such response be delivered to the Norman office by Wednesday, February 1. President Banowsky also enclosed a copy of the Regents' resolution of January 12 supporting the Governor's tax program.

He next called attention to the public meeting of the Regents following the breakfast session, at which time Professor Grant (a member of the Senate and the Budget Council) expressed his displeasure with the manner of the Regents' action.

The Senate Chair next reported that Regent Dan Little had expressed an interest in attending this (January 16) session of the Faculty Senate. The Executive Committee extended an invitation to him to address the Faculty Senate.

Referring to Professor Grant's comments at the public meeting on January 12, Regent Little commented, "Speaking forcefully and very professionally, Professor Grant raised the issue of improper notice and the possible appearance of bad faith" on the part of the Regents. To Regent Little, the concern over the possibility of the appearance of a breach of faith "is much more important than the issue of the furlough days." "One of the most encouraging things in the past several years at this University has been the steady and progressive improvement with a good trust and a good working relationship among the Regents, the administration, and the faculty. I believe that the faculty represents the heart and soul of the University and that the strongest academic achievements occur where there is a strong self-governance by the faculty." He added, "You have an honest relationship between the Regents and the faculty, with this body representing the faculty."

Regent Little next reviewed the history of the Regents' discussions of the furlough issue. The matter was first raised in October with the indication that the problem could arise this fall.

In December, President Banowsky presented and advocated a furlough plan with at least one class day being on furlough. He presented the proposal as a faculty viewpoint and personally advocated that action.

"My first emotional and intellectual reaction was that this would be a terrible mistake." During informal discussions, there was almost unanimous feeling among the Regents that such action would be a mistake and would not have the intended effect. Such action would, in the belief of the Regents, damage efforts to persuade the Legislature to support the Governor's program. "We told President Banowsky that, while we didn't have to decide the whole plan then, we would have to decide that the first two furlough days would not be on class days."

Regent Little noted that at the January meeting a resolution from the College of Business Administration faculty opposing the cancellation of classes was brought to the attention of the Regents. To the Regents, this resolution indicated that there were a number of views on this issue.

After analyzing the issue, the Regents felt that such action would be "a bad political mistake." Noting that "becoming a Regent is in itself a political step," he expressed the view that the Regents on this issue perhaps "had a better handle." He concluded, "We decided to tackle and resolve the problem before it became worse."

Referring to the agenda procedure, he reported that the Regents decided "at the last minute" to add the item to the January agenda after the earlier agenda had been distributed. "Such procedure is not an extraordinary occurrence."

Commenting again on Professor Grant's appearance, he said that Professor Grant had mentioned "a problem that we didn't even think about. He gave us a chance at least to alleviate any doubts or feelings of mistrust."

He concluded with the comment, "I will want to listen to what is said here this afternoon." Regarding the February agenda, he stated "Even though we strongly believe that we are right, that does not mean that we will not listen."

At this point, he read the complete text of the Regents' resolution supporting the Governor's tax program.

In response to questions from the floor, Regent Little urged faculty actions to increase "grass-roots support" and suggested a possible coalition with rural legislators who are becoming alarmed at the prospect of consolidation of small schools throughout the state.

He also noted that President Banowsky had publicly supported a tax increase.

Professor Uno and Tharp reported the insistence of their colleagues that "something be done" and that actions be made known to the faculty.

Comments concerning the need to broaden the University public relations efforts were made by Professors Grant, Gross, Hengst, Lehr, Murphy, and Tharp.

Long-range studies were suggested by Professors Benham, Canter, and Robert C. Davis.

The option of canceling classes was mentioned by Professors Gross and Whitmore with the stipulation that any action should be taken only if no confrontation with the Regents results.

Professors Grant, Gross, and Larson suggested that some initiative be taken to declare "a financial emergency" in accordance with the 1977 Regents' policy. Professors Biro and Whitmore cautioned against any hasty action or decision on this issue.

Professor Larson read a letter from the Director of the School of Drama to President Banowsky expressing that faculty's displeasure with the Regents' action and offering some suggestions.

Professors Grant and Knapp suggested that the Senate ad hoc Committee on "furlough alternatives" be reconstituted and its charge redefined in view of subsequent developments. Professor Gross felt that the Committee had "a basic misunderstanding or misapprehension" of their charge. "We knew right along that our position is different from the Regents' position in this issue."

Professor Grant urged the Senate to put the furlough issue to rest and to concentrate all energies and efforts on the future.

Professor Gross also noted that several state agencies had recently announced reduced services to the public because of the financial crisis.

Taking notice of the recent Regents' approval of an aircraft purchase, Professor Benham suggested putting construction projects (e.g., the Music Building and the Energy Center Building) "on hold."

Professor Cozad, Chair of the ad hoc Committee on furlough alternatives, reported that the Committee had met on December 21, 1983, and January 13, 1984. On behalf of that Committee, he then presented the following report:

"Under the circumstances of the Regents' furlough implementation plan that was approved and announced on January 12, 1984, the ad hoc Furlough Committee appointed by the Faculty Senate recognizes that their activities have become redundant prior to their taking place. Therefore, the ad hoc Committee requests that the Committee be promptly dissolved."

Professor Levy moved approval of the recommendation to disband the Committee. Without dissent, the Senate approved the motion.

Professor Tharp then moved that the following actions be taken:

- (1) That the Senate meet in special session on January 30, 1984.
- (2) That the agenda for that special meeting include the following items:
 - (a) Some action to be taken by the faculty before March 1.
 - (b) Long-range public relations plans.
 - (c) Some discussion of the status of a "financial emergency" on campus.
- (3) That the Senate Executive Committee be charged with drafting some suggestions for the above items. The Committee should consult with any individual on campus, as they see fit.

With 2 dissenting votes, the Senate approved the motion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Senate Journal for the regular session on December 12, 1983, was approved.

ADJOURNMENT

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:32 p.m. The next regular session of the Senate will be held at 3:30 p.m., on Monday, February 13, 1984, in the Conoco Auditorium, Doris W. Neustadt Wing, Bizzell Memorial Library. However, the Senate will meet in special session at 3:30 p.m., on Monday, January 30, 1984, in Room 165, Oklahoma Memorial Union.

Respectfully submitted,



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