

JOURNAL OF THE FACULTY SENATE (Norman campus)
 The University of Oklahoma
 Regular session - January 13, 1986, 3:30 p.m.
 Conoco Auditorium, Neustadt Wing, Bizzell Library

The Faculty Senate was called to order by Professor David Levy, Chair.

PRESENT: Baker, Brown, Caldwell, Canter, Christian, Cohen, Cozad, Curtis, Dietrich, Economou, Eisenhart, Eliason, Emanuel, Frech, Harper, Hopkins, Horrell, Huseman, Kaid, Karriker, Knapp, Kudrna, Kuriger, Larson, Levy, Lis, Livesey, Magrath, Marek, Mennig, Morgan, Murphy, O'Rear, Palmer, Parker, Poland, Reynolds, Taylor, Tepker, Uno, Welpott, Whitely

Provost's Office representative: Ray
 Professional Staff Assoc. representative: McCarley
 Liaison, American Assoc. of University Professors: Turkington
 Liaison, Women's Caucus: Davis

ABSENT: Beesley, Carr, Friend, Holmes, Hill, Knehans, Peacock, Tobias, Wiggins

Professional Staff Assoc. representatives: Burgeson, Hammond
 Graduate Student Assoc. representative: Mork
 UOSA representatives: Besse, Gottshall, Hickey
 Liaison, Assoc. of Black Personnel: Butler

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular session of December 9, 1985, were approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Horton will address the February 10 Faculty Senate meeting. All interested faculty are encouraged to attend.

Professor Lex Holmes (Economics) was elected to complete the 1983-86 Faculty Senate term of Professor Herbert Hengst (Higher Education), representing the Graduate College.

The faculty serving on the committee to study the Provost evaluation form are Professors George Economou (English) [Chair], Jane Magrath (Music), Brian Peacock (Industrial Engineering), and Osborne Reynolds (Law).

The faculty serving on the committee to study open position funding are Professors Stan Eliason (Mathematics), George Emanuel (AMNE), and Marilyn Friend (Education) [Chair].

ACTIONS TAKEN BY PRESIDENT FRANK HORTON

The final revisions in the Committee A statement (see 11/85 Journal, page 2 and Appendix I) have been approved.

The changes in procedures for tenure decisions (see 10/85 Journal, page 4 and Appendix II and 11/85 Journal, page 3) have been approved.

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The membership of the committee to study the expanded grading scale will be announced at the February Senate meeting.

Professors Hopkins and Levy attended the December 12 Regents meeting. They plan to continue the practice of meeting with the Regents individually to try to build better relations between the faculty and the OU Regents.

On December 18, 1985, the Executive Committees of the OSU Faculty Council and OU Faculty Senate met on the Norman campus. The discussion centered on fringe benefits, an academic calendar change proposed by OSU (see below), athletic scheduling, and legislative relations. Regarding funding issues, OSU and OU are handling the budget shortfall in a similar way, OSU returns 25% of grant overhead money back to the generating college or department (compared with less than 10% at OU), and OSU is willing to provide information on how funds from open positions are handled on the OSU campus if requested.

During the Executive Committee meeting with Provost Morris and Associate Provost Ray the Summer Institute of Linguistics and the dissemination of a final exam policy amendment (see below) were considered.

The officers of the Senate and Employee Executive Council met January 10, 1986. The group agreed to ask an EEC representative to attend the Faculty Welfare Committee meetings on the maternity leave policy, and suggestions were made on how to monitor legislation affecting higher education.

Responding to Professor Emanuel's question on the status of the divestment resolution (see 12/85 Journal, page 5), Professor Levy replied that the resolution requested the Board of Regents to reconsider its policy, and that the Board has not decided yet whether to take up this matter again.

Due to an injury Professor Stephen Sutherland was unable to attend this Senate meeting. He will report on the efforts to attract national merit scholars at a future meeting.

RESOLUTION ON FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY

Professor Knapp moved that the Senate adopt the following resolution:

In connection with the Faculty Senate's recommendation for a modification of the University's final examination policy (December 9, 1985), the Senate wishes to adopt the following, clarifying resolution:

It is the strong view of the faculty of the University that all those operating within the University--and particularly those that are not directly involved with the teaching and research functions of the institution--should take scrupulous care to avoid scheduling extracurricular events during the University's final examination periods. It is our view that scheduling such events during the final examination periods does a grave disservice to students and that it may even place a student's academic career in jeopardy. In addition, such a practice can seriously compromise both the integrity of final examinations and the impartiality of the evaluation process. The Senate therefore deplores requests for "exceptions" to the policy and reserves the right to protest such requests to the proper bodies and officials of the University.

Since these requests for "exceptions" frequently arise in connection with athletic events, the Senate, further, directs the Chair to send copies of this resolution to the Chairs of the faculty senates of the other Big Eight institutions, to officials of the Big Eight Conference, and to appropriate officers of this University.

Responding to questions from the floor, Professor Knapp explained that the phrase "officials of the Big Eight Conference" refers to the Big Eight's executive officers, and "appropriate officers of this University" should include OU's athletic director and coaches. The motion to approve the resolution carried unanimously. Professor Levy asked whether there was any objection to declaring this vote as having been unanimous. There was no objection.

OPEN POSITION FUNDING

Professor Emanuel reported on the ad hoc committee's findings on the use of funds from open positions (see Appendix I). Currently, the funds from unfilled positions represent a major source of flexible money. The way these funds are spent varies from college to college. Professor Emanuel pointed out that there are over 40 unfilled positions on campus at this time. The policy change, which will go into effect July 1, also will apply to unfilled staff positions. After the policy change the funds will go to the central administration, except that funds will be released to a department to hire a temporary appointment to fill a vacant position. The

funds in the general fund will be spent within that academic year and will be used to supplement the reserve of the university, i.e. to cover budget shortfalls or one-time academic purchases based on a priority system. The policy will have no effect on released time funding, but will affect all areas of the university, including the Law School, Geological Survey, and Health Sciences Center.

Only the colleges of Engineering, Arts and Sciences, and Education were polled because the committee was asked to report quickly, and those were the colleges represented by the committee members. The committee hopes a discussion of this report will take place within the departments and colleges in the next few weeks. Professor Levy reminded the group that the committee was asked to report its findings at the January meeting, so the Senate would be prepared to ask the President questions about his budget report at the February meeting. No formal action was required or taken.

SUMMER INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS

Professor Tepker moved adoption of a resolution establishing an ad hoc study committee to investigate the relationship between the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) and The University of Oklahoma (see Appendix II).

Professor Paul Minnis (Anthropology) explained that the OU Anthropology Department had encountered problems in some places because of the ill will previously generated by SIL. Further, some ethical questions have been raised since the Boards of Directors for SIL and Wycliffe Bible Translators (WBT) are the same, and since WBT literature states that the purpose of SIL is to translate the Bible.

Answering Professor Emanuel's question about whether there is any kind of academic accreditation procedure for programs such as SIL, Professor Minnis explained that he believes the Graduate Council has to approve changes in the graduate courses offered by SIL. In response to Professor Cohen's inquiry as to how credit for SIL courses is approved, Professor Tepker answered that SIL is a Provost-direct unit, but such OU departments as philosophy and anthropology are not involved in approving SIL courses. Professor Minnis pointed out, for instance, that last summer SIL taught a course on the anthropology of religion, which is a course offered by the Anthropology Department, yet Anthropology had no input as to the content of that course. Professor Emanuel Drechsel (Anthropology) said he had heard complaints from students enrolled in SIL courses that they were pushed to express their beliefs in Christianity.

Responding to questions from Senate members, Professor Tepker said the committee was asked to report any findings by April 28 so that the Senate could consider the matter at its final meeting of the academic year (May 5). The students are admitted to the SIL classes through the regular OU admissions process, and they receive credit from OU. Professor Economou noted that the SIL offers similar programs at two or three other universities, and it might be useful to contact them for further information. The motion to establish an ad hoc committee to study this matter carried.

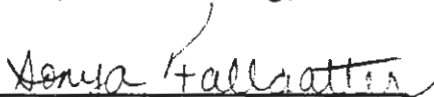
PROPOSED CALENDAR CHANGE

Professor Hopkins moved that the Faculty Senate request the Class Schedule Committee to look into the feasibility and benefits to be gained by changing the academic calendar. Under the proposed plan, which also is being considered by Oklahoma State University, the Fall and Spring semesters would be compressed into 15 week semesters, the Fall semester would begin after Labor Day, and the class periods would be lengthened the requisite number of minutes to make up for the lost days. The main purpose is to eliminate the Labor Day break early in the fall semester. Some advantages of the proposal are the energy savings due to the longer recess between semesters, the possibility of instituting a trimester system, increased time for intersession courses, opportunity for student employment during the entire month of August, and elimination of "freshman fallout" after Labor Day.

Professor Emanuel asked if it would be necessary for OU and OSU to have the same kind of schedule. Professor Levy answered that it would not be necessary, but if both schools should recommend a change, then the chances of approval would be greater. Professor Livesey asked what the arrangement for the Spring semester would be. Professor Hopkins said the Spring semester also would be 15 weeks and would begin later than it does now. Professor Canter pointed out that the OSU faculty are on a 10-month contract versus the 9-month contract at OU; a condensed semester might affect faculty appointment periods. Professor Baker recommended that the student holiday in October also be examined, and he expressed his concern about lengthening the class periods. Professor Emanuel urged the study committee to poll the faculty about their opinions if the Senate approved this motion. Professor Kudrna noted that the Winter intersession might draw more enrollment if the regular semesters were shortened. The motion carried with one dissenting vote.

ADJOURNMENT

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:20 p.m. The next regular session of the Senate will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, February 10, 1986, in the Conoco Auditorium, Neustadt Wing, Bizzell Library.


 Sonya Fallgatter
 Administrative Coordinator


 Sherril Christian
 Secretary

Report to Faculty Senate on Use of Funds
from Unfilled Faculty Positions

Current Distribution and Uses of Open Position Funding

Information was obtained on the use of funds from approved but unfilled faculty positions from the Colleges of Engineering, Arts and Sciences, and Education. These units use the funds for the following purposes:

- a. To meet instructional obligations (e.g., to employ instructors),
- b. To compensate for shortfalls in the M & O budget,
- c. To defray the costs of recruiting new faculty members, and
- d. To provide flexibility for deans and department chairs, that is, the funds are used for "discretionary purposes."

Planned Change in Use of Funds

The committee met with President Horton and Provost Morris on January 7, 1986. The following report about the policy change is based on information obtained at that meeting.

The policy for handling the funds in question has two purposes: a) to increase the University's reserve fund to an acceptable level without reducing the overall budget, and b) to resolve current discrepancies between the M & O budget and M & O expenditures. The policy affects all University positions (staff as well as faculty) on the Norman campus, the Health Sciences Center, the Law School, and the Geological Survey. July 1, 1986 is the planned date for implementing the policy.

The policy for distributing funds was summarized by President Horton as follows: When the purpose for which money is assigned cannot be met, the funds will revert to central administration. Several points clarify this statement:

1. Funds will remain in departments only for allocated purposes. For example, if an instructor is hired to temporarily meet the teaching responsibilities of a faculty member who has left the university, that instructor's salary would remain in the department. However, any additional remaining funds from the faculty member's salary would revert to central administration until the faculty position was filled.
2. The funds accumulated through this process will supplement, for the year in which they are collected, the University reserve fund.
3. If the funds are not needed as a reserve during the year in which they are collected, they may be used for one-time academic expenditures (e.g., equipment, equipment maintenance, library purchases). The priorities for the use of the funds will be established in advance through the budget process, and these decisions will be made by central administration.

4. If departments want funds for recruiting or other traditional use of the funds from unfilled positions, requests will have to be included in departmental budgets.
5. The policy has no effect on funds released when faculty members buy out their time through grants or other external funding.

Recommendations

The committee felt it inappropriate to make recommendations concerning the policy without first obtaining Faculty Senate input. Further investigation into this issue (e.g., the use of such funds at other universities) could be undertaken if deemed necessary.

Stan Eliason
George Emanuel
Marilyn Friend, Chair

Whereas:

The Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) has offered courses for academic credit at the University of Oklahoma for almost forty years through instructors appointed as adjunct faculty of the university;

The SIL has close, open, ties to the Wycliffe Bible Translators (WBT), a religious organization with an evangelical mission;

Some recently discovered evidence indicates that SIL requires its instructors to be members of both SIL and WBT and to affirm their faith in specific Christian doctrine as a condition precedent to membership in WBT and employment with SIL;

It has been alleged that the relationship between SIL and the University of Oklahoma may violate the United States Constitution, other federal law and may have impaired the academic reputation of the university;

Be it resolved: The Faculty Senate establishes an ad hoc study committee consisting of three full-time faculty members to be appointed by the President of the Faculty Senate. This committee shall:

1. Investigate whether the relationship between SIL and the University of Oklahoma is appropriate in light of any applicable constitutional, legal or ethical standards;

2. Investigate whether the relationship between SIL and the University of Oklahoma is desirable, based on the committee's evaluation of SIL's academic programs, SIL's impact on the academic reputation of the University of Oklahoma, and any other pertinent factors;

3. Investigate and make recommendations respecting any necessary and appropriate changes, if any, in the relationship between SIL and the University of Oklahoma;

4. Report its findings and conclusions to the Faculty Senate and to appropriate administrative officers of the University no later than April 28, 1986.