

JOURNAL OF THE FACULTY SENATE (Norman campus)
The University of Oklahoma
Regular session - January 12, 1987 - 3:30 p.m.
Conoco Auditorium, Neustadt Wing, Bizzell Memorial Library

The Faculty Senate was called to order by Professor Penny Hopkins, Chair.

PRESENT: Aly, Bert, Brown, Caldwell, Canter, Cohen, Curtis, Devine, Dietrich, Economou, Eisenhart, Emanuel, Faibisoff, Foster, Frech, Harris, Herstand, Hopkins, Horrell, Kudrna, Kuriger, Kutner, Lee, Lewis, Livesey, Madland, Magid, Magrath, Mennig, Morgan, Palmer, Poland, Rogers, Shambaugh, Spaeth, K. Taylor, Tepker, Tompkins, Wallace, Wiggins

PSA representatives: Laquer, Weddle

Liaison, Women's Caucus: Norton

ABSENT: Bell, Childress, Crowley, Eliason, Harper, Hill, Johnson, Knehans, Parker, B. Taylor, Tobias

UOSA representatives: Johannes, Poynor, Wesner

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular session of December 8, 1986, were approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The faculty members nominated for the program review panel (see 12/86 Journal, page 2) are: Joel Dietrich (Architecture), Roger Rideout (Music), Nancy Mergler (Psychology), and Maurice Rasmussen (AMNE).

Professor Michael Devine (Science and Public Policy) was elected to complete the 1986-89 term of Professor Lex Holmes (Economics) on the Faculty Senate, representing the Graduate College.

ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE ADMINISTRATION ON SENATE RECOMMENDATIONS

Change in membership of Patent Advisory Committee (see 9/86 Journal, page 6): To be considered at the January 1987 Regents meeting.

Resolution on insurance for personal property kept on campus (see 10/86 Journal, page 5): In a letter dated November 18, 1986 Bill Jordan, Director of the Risk Management office, recommended that these items be covered under the employee's own homeowner's insurance. Professor Hopkins read the following excerpt from the letter, noting that the reason the issue had been raised was because faculty members had thought they would have to pay a much higher premium to insure personally-owned equipment kept on campus.

"The normal homeowners policy covers personal equipment, up to 10% of the value of the policy, away from the premises. Of course there is normally a deductible amount involved, but personal property such as furniture, rugs, lamps, carpets, etc., as mentioned in the resolution, should be covered at no extra charge to the policy holder. Items such as personally-owned computers, tools and typewriters may be considered to be business properties if used in campus offices or labs and they may or may not be covered under normal homeowners policies. The individual insuring companies would have to make that determination for the policy holder.

Those persons with personally-owned items used in campus offices or labs should consult with the insurance agents or companies writing their homeowners policies to make a determination as to whether their personal items are covered. If they are not presently protected under the homeowners policy, the items with which they are concerned may be added by endorsement for a very nominal additional premium.

The University Risk Management Office offers to assist or consult with any faculty or staff member who needs advice in insuring personal property of the type mentioned. This office will continue to seek any other method of insuring this property which may provide an advantage to the faculty or staff member."

Recommendation that the Chairs of University Councils/Committees/Boards be elected in the Spring (see 11/86 Journal, page 3): Approved.

Revisions to faculty appeals process [to specify time frames] (see 11/86 Journal, page 3): Awaiting the Health Sciences Center Faculty Senate recommendation.

Resolution on promotion to professor (see 11/86 Journal, page 6): The action that the Senate will work with Provost Wadlow on this matter was approved.

Resolution on early retirement (see 11/86 Journal, page 7): Under review.

Resolution regarding Regent Kemp (see 11/86 Journal, page 8): Acknowledged receipt.

Nominations for the seven positions on the search committee for the Vice Provost for Continuing Education and Public Service (see 11/86 Journal, page 2): Appointed Professors Carol Beesley (Art), Paul Gilje (History), Thomas James (Political Science), Roger Mellgren (Psychology), A. Ravindran (Industrial Engineering) [chair], Paul Sharp (Education), and Gordon Uno (Botany & Microbiology).

Nominations for the two positions on the search committee for the Affirmative Action Officer (see 11/86 Journal, page 2): Appointed Professors Teree Foster (Law) [chair] and Vivien Ng (History).

Changes in the charge of the Academic Program Council (see 12/86 Journal, page 5): Approved.

Revisions to policy concerning departmental changes in criteria for evaluation, tenure, and promotion (see 12/86 Journal, page 5): President shall recommend approval to the Regents at their January 1987 meeting.

Revised form for reporting faculty performance evaluations to the Provost's office (see 12/86 Journal, page 4): Approved. The Provost has already sent out the new form to the Deans/Directors.

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Three members of the Executive Committee met with Tom McCurdy, Chair of the OU Board of Regents, on December 15. Items discussed included the Oklahoma Higher Education Task Force recommendations concerning the Regential selection process, the need for greater communication between the Regents and Faculty Senate, and the lack of continuity in faculty governance. (Regent McCurdy suggested that the Chair of the Faculty Senate serve a two-year term.)

During the monthly meeting with Provost Wadlow on January 5, the Provost assured the Executive Committee that the new process for promotion to full professor would be reviewed at the end of the year, and she announced the names of the faculty selected for the Strategy for Excellence Task Force: Paul Bell (Zoology), Sherril Christian (Chemistry), Michael Devine (Science and Public Policy), Gregory Kunesh (Drama), David London (Geology and Geophysics), Judith Lewis (History), and Shane Moriarity (Accounting). The Provost will chair the committee.

At the January 6 meeting with President Horton the Executive Committee expressed the concern of the faculty about the budgetary problems of the library and suggested some possible sources of funding for items such as periodicals and monographs. The group also discussed the need to carefully plan the allocation of endowed chairs, the Oklahoma Higher Education Task Force report (a copy is available in the Senate office), proliferation and approval of graduate courses at the smaller state colleges, and the budgetary outlook.

FOCUS ON EXCELLENCE

Professor Canter focused on the accomplishments of the faculty as a whole in the area of research and creative activities. According to the 1985 edition (Volume 13) of "Publications and Creative Activities" compiled by the Office of Research Administration, 442 faculty, representing 73 units, reported a total of 1,925 publications and creative activities for that year. And these figures may be low, since some faculty may not have submitted information to this publication.

EXPANDED GRADING SCALE

Professor Schmitz, chair of the ad hoc committee to reconsider the expanded grading scale issue, explained the background of the proposal to add plus and minus modifiers to letter grades. In May 1985 (see 5/85 Journal, page 2) the Faculty Senate approved, by a narrow margin, a proposal to adopt a 12-point grading scale for 5000 and 6000 level courses. The administration had reservations about implementing an expanded scale at only the graduate level and suggested that the Senate look at the concept more carefully. In December 1985 (see 12/85 Journal, page 2) the Senate voted to appoint an ad hoc committee to restudy the proposal. The recommendations of that committee are:

- (1) that the Senate approve in principle the use of an expanded grading scale employing plus and minus modifiers to letter grades for all courses on the Norman Campus;
- (2) that the grading scale change be implemented when possible using existing staff;
- (3) that the numerical level for satisfactory Graduate level work be maintained at 3.0;
- (4) that when the changeover is made, it be applicable overall immediately, "no grandfather clauses."

Proposed grading scale with associated quality points:

A = 4.0	B- = 2.7	D+ = 1.3
A- = 3.7	C+ = 2.3	D = 1.0
B+ = 3.3	C = 2.0	D- = .7
B = 3.0	C- = 1.7	F = 0

Professor Schmitz discussed the arguments (contained in the committee's report) for and against changing the system. He called attention to the results of a survey which showed that 13 of the 26 public AAU schools and 23 of the 28 private AAU schools use some form of plus/minus grade. Professor Schmitz noted that Student Congress had concluded (April 29, 1986) that the change was unnecessary because it would not make any significant difference in students' GPA's. The two students who served on the ad hoc committee did not have any strong feelings about the proposal and were not present when the committee voted.

According to a report sent to Dr. Milford Messer, Registrar, the change would require 8000 person hours to revise the Student Information System, for a projected cost of \$168,000. Using existing staff, the project could be completed in two years, if they postponed working on other projects, such as the new Advising/Degree Audit System. Professor Cohen noted that since the Student Information System would be nearing the end of its life cycle and coming up for renewal in a couple of years, perhaps that would be a good time to consider implementing a new grading scale.

Professor Schmitz reported that among the deans and current Provost, there was no strong sentiment for or against the proposal, although they believed there should be strong overall faculty support for the change. Provost Wadlow said she would want some informed faculty discussion and then some sort of input from the faculty, not just a poll. Professor Mennig pointed out that the Senate couldn't approve in principle the use of an expanded grading scale without some indication of faculty opinion. Professor Hopkins proposed that the Senate members find out the opinions of their constituents and then be prepared to vote at the February 9 meeting on whether to present this matter to the entire faculty. Professor Economou suggested that another option would be for the Senate to propose an alternate grading scale instead, perhaps one that is simpler. (A copy of the report is available in the Senate office or from members of the Senate.)

PROVOST'S EVALUATION FORM, DESCRIPTION IN FACULTY HANDBOOK

Professor Economou explained that the committee charged with developing a new form to replace the current Provost's evaluation form (see 11/86 Journal, page 4 and 12/86 Journal page 4) also recommended that the last footnote on the bottom of page 38 of the 1981 Faculty Handbook, which reads:

Faculty performance evaluations are made annually by the evaluating unit for each faculty member in accord with the evaluating unit's own approved criteria and procedures. These evaluations are reported on a summary reporting form to the faculty member, the dean, and the Provost.

be replaced with the following paragraph and placed, preferably, in the body of the text:

Every faculty member will be evaluated annually by Committee A in the appropriate academic unit or department according to the criteria and procedures approved by that unit. These evaluations will then be represented in the form known as the Summary Report of Annual Faculty Evaluation and submitted first to the faculty member, who may respond to the Summary Report in the space provided, and then to the appropriate dean and the provost.

The Senate approved the replacement paragraph describing the Provost's evaluation form.

ENERGY CENTER STUDY GROUP REPORT

Professor Hopkins reminded the members that in October the Senate had voted to set up an Energy Center Study Group (see 10/86 Journal, page 6). Professor Sherril Christian, a member of the study group, discussed their recommendations, noting that the main dissension on campus about the Energy Center had been over what its purpose should be. In the opinion of the study group, the Energy Center should be an "energy research institute," which would promote and support interdisciplinary faculty research on energy and thus include many departments that are not presently housed in the Energy Center building.

Other recommendations call for the director of the center to have had a successful personal research career in at least one of the basic areas of science and engineering related to energy and for an advisory committee to be established which would be composed largely, if not exclusively, of faculty who would advise on the direction of growth of the center. That would mean the goals of the Energy Center and the qualifications for the director would be divorced from the actual physical confines of the Energy Center building.

Professor Cohen asked why research was referred to as "faculty research" — what other kind of research might there be. Professor Christian said that would be in contrast to hiring technicians, engineers, etc. to come in and work on certain projects that are not directly the work of faculty. Professor Devine asked what role teaching and service would play. Professor Christian responded that the Energy Center as a building would be involved with teaching and service, but the Energy Center as a concept should be strictly limited to the research effort. Answering Professor Aly's question about why the advisory committee should not be like an industrial board, Professor Christian said the idea was to create a board to function analogously to the way the Research Council functions — that is, to coordinate and promote the research efforts of faculty. This would not necessarily preclude the creation of another external board. The Senate will vote at the February 9 Senate meeting on whether to adopt the report as policy and recommend it to President Horton. (A copy of the report is available in the Senate office or from members of the Senate.)

CORRECTION TO ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW DOCUMENT

Professor Roger Frech, member of the Program Review process committee, explained that during a re-write of the program review document, the Graduate Dean had been omitted from the list of members who would serve on the Campus Departmental Review Panel, because it was believed that the presence of the Graduate Dean was implied in the phrase, "the deans of each program being reviewed." The Provost's office was not convinced that it was implicitly understood and hesitated to change the document which had been approved by the Senate. Professor Frech moved to insert "the Graduate Dean" on page 6, Section C.1 before "the deans." The Senate approved that correction. With the addition of another dean on the panel, the Senate will need to nominate an additional faculty member for the panel in order to balance out the number of deans. (A copy of the final revised document, incorporating this change and the changes recommended at the December 9, 1986 meeting, is available in the Senate office.)

TOBACCO POLICY

President Horton requested the Norman campus Faculty Senate to review a tobacco policy established at the Health Sciences Center and make a recommendation regarding implementation on this campus. The policy prohibits the sale and advertisement of tobacco products at the HSC, requires study rooms and lounges to be designated as non-smoking areas except for specific areas set aside for smoking, and enforces a no-smoking policy in classrooms. (A copy of the policy is available in the Senate office or from members of the Senate.)

There was some discussion on whether alcohol advertising should also be banned, whether prohibiting tobacco advertising would violate First

Amendment rights, and whether this would be binding on the student Union and sororities and fraternities. Professor Tepker (College of Law) explained that the courts had not ruled definitively on the First Amendment issue as it relates to prohibiting tobacco advertising. Professor Mennig pointed out that tobacco ads on t.v. have been banned for a long time, but that he could see that there might be a problem with acceptance by faculty and students. Professor Hopkins suggested that the Senate defer voting on this matter until the February 9 meeting and invite a member of the OU Legal Counsel to be present then to answer questions.

INSURANCE FOR UNIVERSITY-OWNED EQUIPMENT

At the request of Professor Gregory Kunesh, chair of the School of Drama, Professor Herstand asked that the following letter from Graduate Dean Kenneth Hoving to Professor Kunesh be read into the Senate record.

"There has been a rash of thefts recently of computers and computer equipment in offices and labs at the University. As you are all well aware, getting money for the original purchase of computer, office and lab equipment is extraordinarily difficult with the budget situation as it is. Replacing the equipment may be impossible for faculty, departments or colleges when we already in such straitened financial circumstances. Unfortunately, in nearly every case, these losses were not covered by insurance.

I strongly suggest that you consider insuring your computer and other high dollar office and lab equipment. The cost of this insurance is relatively small compared with the cost of the equipment, especially when all of the equipment in a particular department is considered. Additionally, it is possible to reduce the cost to a particular department if several departments sharing a building share the cost of a single policy on all their equipment. The University Risk Management Office will be glad to assist departments planning the best method of coverage and in obtaining the insurance.

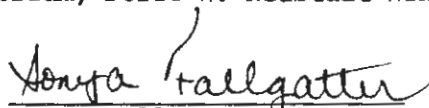
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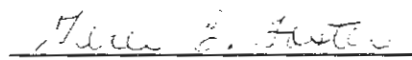
Please, in the interests of protecting our investments of scarce dollars and invaluable research effort, look again at your physical security arrangements and get your equipment insured."

According to Professor Herstand, the members of the School of Drama were aghast to learn that the University does not insure this equipment because of a lack of money, yet departments are being asked to pay for the insurance, when they can't afford it. Professor Herstand said he thought someone ought to be informed that this is a ludicrous "Catch-22."

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m. The next regular session of the Faculty Senate will be held at 3:30 p.m., on Monday, February 9, 1987, in the Conoco Auditorium, Doris W. Neustadt Wing, Bizzell Memorial Library.


 Sonya Fallgatter
 Administrative Coordinator


 Teree E. Foster
 Secretary