

JOURNAL OF THE FACULTY SENATE  
 The University of Oklahoma (Norman campus)  
 Regular session - April 10, 1989 - 3:30 p.m.  
 Conoco Auditorium, Neustadt Wing, Bizzell Memorial Library

The Faculty Senate was called to order by Professor Gary B. Cohen, Chair.

PRESENT: Baker, Barker, Bergey, Bert, Cohen, Cozad, Dietrich, Fagan, Farmer, Fife, Gabert, Goodey, Gudmundson, Herstand, Hill, Hinson, Jackson, Kiacz, Knapp, Knox, Kutner, Magid, McManus, Moore, Mouser, Nelson, Nicewander, Rideout, Robertson, Ryan, Salisbury, Smith, Snell, Tompkins, Vestal, Weaver-Meyers, Wedel, Zelby

PSA representatives: Barth, Scott  
 GSS representatives: K. Martin  
 UOSA representatives: Bell, McDaniel  
 Observer from Student Affairs: Kumin

ABSENT: Ahern, Blick, Brock, Cook, James, Johnson, Kenderdine, Minnis, Ray, Reardon, Sankowski, Stoltenberg, Swisher, Zonana

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## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular session of March 13, 1989, were approved, with the following amendments (strike-throughs indicate deletions; underlining indicates additions):

Page 6, last paragraph, second sentence should read: "Prof. Zelby added ~~that the accreditation requirements limit the time it takes a student to graduate.~~ said that adding hours would probably jeopardize accreditation."

Page 7, first paragraph, second sentence should read: "He also questioned whether there were enough courses to satisfy the non-western civilization requirements and worried whether the solution might be simply to classify certain courses as non-western."

In addition, the fourth sentence in the first paragraph of page 5 should read: "The survey conducted by the Classroom Maintenance Committee concluded that it would take about ~~\$50,000~~ \$500,000 just to reach minimum standards for classroom space."

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

In connection with the new admissions requirements, the OU Regents earlier recommended that a task force on minority issues be formed. Interim President Swank has appointed the following Norman Campus faculty to the task force: Raymond Yeh (Architecture) [Chair], Keith Bystrom (Law), [Vice-Chair], Ramon Alonso (Management), and Jerry Bread (Educational Leadership).

The Spring General Faculty meeting will be held Thursday, April 20, 1989 at 3:30 in Dale Hall 128. A resolution will be presented on the task force proposal for campus-wide general education requirements. The faculty will also vote on the recommended apportionment of Senate seats for 1989-92.

## ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE ADMINISTRATION ON SENATE RECOMMENDATIONS

At the March 13 meeting the Senate approved a motion that the Section 13/New College Funds be increased to a share proportionate to the Norman Campus needs and share of the total University student body. Interim President Swank responded that he does not believe the allocation among the campuses should be based on the total student body, but rather upon the campus needs of the Norman and Health Sciences Center campuses.

Interim President Swank has forwarded to the OU Board of Regents the resolutions approved by the Senate on March 13 regarding the proposed general education requirements.

## SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT

Prof. Cohen congratulated the faculty honored at the Faculty Tribute on April 6 and announced those who are or were recent members of the Senate.

The topics of the Senate Executive Committee's meeting with Interim President Swank on March 21 included the apportionment of Section 13 funds, a proposal for remodeling and renovating Cross Center, the status of the implementation of the new overhead rate for auxiliary accounts, and private commercial promotions on campus.

On March 27 the Senate Executive Committee met with the Athletic Director, Donnie Duncan, and the new Assistant Athletic Director for Academic Standards, Tom Hill, to discuss the welfare of OU's student-athletes, support for their academic progress, and ways to assure compliance by the Athletic Department with NCAA, Big Eight, and University regulations. Later that afternoon, the Executive Committee met with Provost Wadlow to discuss the University's plans for additional endowed chairs and professorships.

On March 28 the Senate Executive Committee met in Stillwater with the Executive Committee of the Oklahoma State University Faculty Council. The topics discussed included funding issues, admissions and transfer requirements, and the problems with the athletic programs. At the urging of the OSU extension, the State Regents have issued a new ruling in the last year making all course credit given by any state institution equal to all other credit awarded by the institution, notwithstanding whether they are correspondence or extension courses. That will have important implications for OU's residence requirements.

At their meeting on April 6, the OU Regents approved the new alternative admissions policy which was mailed to the members of the Faculty Senate March 22, but with the following clarifications: the student questionnaire will be evaluated by two certified individuals from different University offices; the process is to be used to address only deficiencies in performance requirements, not in curricular requirements; and the various offices and programs with a special interest in alternative admissions will advise the Provost but not supervise or monitor the process. These were issues the Senate Executive Committee had raised based on responses to the draft by the Senators. The Regents also dropped their plan to hire a temporary manager of all agency special accounts and auxiliary services after receiving a recommendation from an outside consultant that the existing administrative structure is adequate and that what is really needed is a more accurate and precise system for projecting costs and calculating depreciation. The University administration presented the Regents with some of its tentative plans for the 1989-90 budget. Assuming either a \$26.6 million or \$32 million increase in state appropriation for all of higher education, in addition to the tuition increase, the administration is tentatively proposing a salary increase of about five percent based entirely on merit and, depending on the size of the state appropriation, the addition of a few new positions. The item of the College of Business Administration's admissions requirements and enrollment management was not on the Regents' agenda.

Sometime before May 6 the Provost's office will hold a reception honoring all the faculty who have published books between May 1, 1988 and April 30, 1989.

Prof. Cohen reminded the Senate that elections will be held next month for the Senate Chair-elect, Secretary, members of the Executive Committee, and other standing committees. The current Executive Committee will propose at least one candidate for every position, but nominations may also be made from the floor.

REMARKS BY ATTORNEY GENERAL ROBERT HENRY: AN "OPEN MEETING" WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mr. Henry spoke to the Senate about his views on higher education funding, open meetings laws and governing board oversight. He noted that the Southeastern State University case would go to trial on May 8, and it would be inappropriate for him to comment on that.

He discussed some of the recent opinions of the Attorney General's office. One important opinion was that the legislature's statement that the Chancellor for Higher Education could be paid no more than the governor was unconstitutional. This finding made it possible to bring in a person such as Dr. Brisch. Other opinions have made possible honorary doctorates and the endowed chairs program. Mr. Henry complimented Chancellor Brisch on the positive steps he has taken on behalf of higher education, and he commended the legislature for recognizing the value of human capital by funding the endowed chairs program. He said Oklahoma more commonly spends its money on buildings.

He told the faculty they have more political influence than they think and should become more active in organizations such as the American Association of University Professors. He praised the Cleveland County House delegation for their accomplishments on behalf of education, in particular facilitating the confirmation of OU's new regent, Cooper West.

Prof. Ryan said he would like for organizations such as the Faculty Senate to be able to discuss issues frankly, without having it appear in the press. Mr. Henry said there are statutory exemptions to the open meetings law, but that closed meetings generate a lot of hostility and suspicion. Prof. Cohen commented that there have been very few prosecutions of college or university officials who falsify records or of individuals who have bribed them to do so. He asked whether state law provides adequate protection against that. Mr. Henry responded that the Attorney General's office does not have enough staff to investigate academic fraud allegations and does not have prosecutory power unless requested by the governor or the matter involves state money or certain ethical problems. The primary prosecution remains with the district attorneys. When asked by Prof. Cohen what could be done about governing boards that abuse their power, Mr. Henry said not much could be done except for the governor to make good appointments to the boards.

Prof. Herstand questioned why some of the capable legislators were left off the joint appropriations committee. Mr. Henry said that many of those legislators understand the political process so well that they will continue to be involved with funding. He said one of the reasons why there is so little money left for higher education is because so much state money is spent on common education. He said increases in the ad valorem tax or sales tax could free up money for higher education that is now being spent on common education. Prof. Fagan complained that the intention of the recent initiative petition on parimutuel betting was to earmark the tax revenue for education, but the legislature subsequently diverted the money to the general fund. Mr. Henry said earmarking takes away from the legislature the ability to deal with problems in a non-porkbarrel, non-local way. Because the level of distrust for the legislature is so great, however, it will probably be necessary in future initiative petitions to earmark money for education.

## FOCUS ON EXCELLENCE

This month's focus was on Prof. Lynn Devenport, Associate Professor of Psychology, who is a physiological neuroscientist. His work, in the laboratory and in the field, on hippocampus function, glucocorticoids, and animal cognition, has important implications on how brains detect causality, what causes obesity, and how learning takes place. Prof. Devenport's studies include physiological explanations of how alcohol produces drunken behavior and how cells know when to store energy and when to release it. His research has been supported by the National Institute for Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism and the National Institutes of Health, and he received a highly-competitive Cattell fellowship in 1987-88 to study how animals think.

## REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

Prof. Magid, Chair of the Committee on Committees, presented a slate of nominees for the end-of-the-year vacancies on University and Campus Councils, Committees, and Boards. The Senate will vote on the nominations at the May meeting. Prof. Magid noted that faculty were still needed for the Faculty Appeals Board, and he encouraged the Senators to forward suggestions for nominees for that Board to the Senate office.

## 1989-90 ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW PANEL

The Senate approved, without dissent, the following nominees of the Senate Executive Committee for the faculty positions on the 1989-90 academic program review panel:

- Davis Egle (AME)
- Patricia Eidson (Architecture)
- David Morgan (Political Science)
- Nim Razook (EAP)
- Richard Reardon (Psychology)
- Joseph Suflita (Botany & Microbiology)
- Mickie Voges (Law)

## COMPROMISE PROPOSAL ON THE COUNCIL ON CAMPUS LIFE

(See 12/88 Journal, page 7 for background information.) Prof. Cohen explained that he and Professors Magid and Ray had met with student leaders, Student Affairs administrators, and the Employee Executive Council Chair concerning ways to reach a compromise on the proposal, which the Senate approved at the December meeting. Prof. Magid noted the changes: a shortened charge, a student majority among the voting members, Vice Presidents and Provost added as ex officio members, the chair elected from any of the voting members, and terms of one year, with the option of reappointment. Prof. Cohen pointed out that he still hoped some existing committees could be discontinued or merged with the new Council, even though that is not specifically included in the revised proposal. Answering a question from the floor, Prof. Magid said the three at-large representatives of the Faculty Senate would be nominated by the Senate, but not necessarily be members of the Senate.

Mr. Randy McDaniel (newly-elected UOSA President) said he believed the Council would provide an opportunity to make campus life better and to get input from various sources. However, the student leaders still disagree with including the President as one of the individuals to whom the Council may report. Prof. Cohen explained that the reason for including the President is that some of the issues might not fall in the purview of any one vice-president, that all councils are advisory anyway, and that there might be some occasions where the Council might want to advise the President directly. The Senate approved the compromise proposal unanimously (attached as Appendix I).

#### PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE PROCESS FOR REVISING THE OU STUDENT CODE

Prof. Cohen explained that the rationale of the Executive Committee for proposing changes in the process for revising the OU Student Code was to include faculty and staff in the process. The Student Code contains policies on discipline, academic appeals, and violations of law and university regulations. Faculty should be involved in decisions on such matters. Prof. Magid pointed out that the Student Code defines the relationship between the student and the University, and the Senate Executive Committee believes there is a role for faculty advice in that.

Ms. Kathy Martin, Chair of the Graduate Student Senate, noted that the proposal did not specify that the Chairs of Student Congress and GSS should serve on the Revision Committee. Prof. Cohen explained that the intent of the stipulation for four students nominated by the UOSA President was to provide flexibility in case those chairs did not want to sit on the committee. The student leaders still would have the prerogative of appointing the two chairs. The proposal will be voted on at the May meeting. (A copy is available from the Senate office.)

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROPOSAL FOR MID-SEMESTER GRADE REPORTS

In a memo dated March 31, 1989, Provost Wadlow asked the Senate to consider a proposal to provide mid-semester grade reports to all undergraduate students with D and F grades in undergraduate courses. The purpose is to improve retention and increase the academic success of academically qualified students. Dr. Mel Messer, Registrar, was present at the meeting to answer questions. He said the system could be put in place by Fall 1989. The faculty would receive the reporting form in the eighth week of the semester, and the grade report would be sent in the ninth or tenth week to the student as well as the student's adviser. This would be similar to the mid-term class rolls currently being distributed during the eighth week and would have space for noting items such as absences.

Prof. Zelby said he had several problems with the proposal. First, as sponsor of the electrical engineering honor society, it is necessary for him to request grades for students, but he has been receiving the reports later and later in the semester. He questioned whether yet another administrative procedure would improve the situation. Second, to be consistent with the Strategy for Excellence, the University should be trying to retain the good students, instead of worrying about the poor students. Finally, faculty might have to rearrange their course syllabi in order to provide the information in time. Prof. Cohen said it was his understanding that faculty would not be forced to reconfigure their courses to fill out the report; they would simply report that they did not know.

Prof. Rideout said that advisers can help their students if they get the information soon enough. Mr. McDaniel said the proposal could be helpful, but he thought there were other methods that could better benefit students, for instance, a longer add-drop period. Prof. Herstand said he objected to continuing these reports for students at the sophomore level or higher. Prof. Cozad said he believed mid-term grade reports had been <sup>used</sup> ~~tried~~ in the College of Arts and Sciences and <sup>this</sup> ~~was not~~ a good <sup>experience</sup> ~~concept~~. Prof. Gudmundson questioned whether the advisers were in a position to remedy any problems. Prof. Cohen asked the Senators to discuss this with their colleagues and bring their suggestions to the next meeting when the proposal will be brought to a vote. He said it was important for the faculty's voice to be heard on a matter such as this, since they are the ones who will be filling out the forms. (A copy of Provost Wadlow's memo is available from the Senate office.)

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m. The next regular session of the Senate will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, May 1, 1989 in the Conoco Auditorium, Neustadt Wing, Bizzell Library.

Sonya Tallgatter  
 Sonya Tallgatter  
 Administrative Coordinator

Gail Tompkins  
 Gail Tompkins  
 Secretary

April 1989

**REVISED FACULTY SENATE PROPOSAL FOR A  
UNIVERSITY COUNCIL ON CAMPUS LIFE (Norman Campus)**

**Purpose:** To advise the appropriate Vice President(s) or Provost, or the President of the University\*, on all matters pertaining to the quality of campus life at the University which are not already in the purview of an existing University Council or Committee.

**Membership:** The University Council on Campus Life shall consist of 19 members, 15 voting and 4 non-voting ex officio members, apportioned in the following manner:

Student Representation (8 members)

UOSA President

Chair, Undergraduate Student Congress

Chair, Graduate Student Senate

OU Norman Campus member, State Regents' Student  
Advisory Board

Four at-large student representatives to be appointed  
by the UOSA President with the advice and consent  
of the Legislative Branch.

Faculty Representation (4 members)

Chair, Faculty Senate, Norman Campus (or his/her  
designee)

Three at-large representatives of the Faculty Senate,  
nominated by the Senate on a one-for-one basis

Staff Representation (3 members)

Chair, Employees' Executive Council (or his/her  
designee)

Two at-large representatives of the Employees'  
Executive Council, nominated by the Council on a  
one-for-one basis

Non-voting Ex officio Members (4)

Provost, Norman Campus (or designee)

Vice President for Student Affairs (or designee)

Vice President for Administrative Affairs (or designee)

Vice President for University Affairs (or designee)

All members' terms shall be for one year, but members may be reappointed. All members shall be appointed for the subsequent year before the end of spring semester classes. The new membership shall meet before the end of the spring semester classes to elect by a majority vote the Council's chair from among the voting members.

\* Student Government leaders may propose omission of the President.