

MINUTES - FACULTY SENATE MEETING, APRIL 6, 1988

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Chairman Rufus G. Fellers.

I. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes were approved as distributed.

II. Reports of Officers.

President Holderman reported on three items.

1. Budget. The budget bill has moved from the House to the Senate. Currently it is at 93 per cent of full formula funding and also includes a four percent increase in faculty salaries plus a non-recurring money item which involves library development. We are hoping additional funds will be added to the budget by the Senate. The Cutting Edge is in the bill for \$5,000,000. There are several proposals in that portion of the bill which give us some concern.

a. A limitation on out-of-state enrollment. We appear to be little affected by this as the Board of Trustees has already established an 80 percent in to 20 percent out relationship.

b. A gearing of out-of-state tuition to the operating costs of the University might cause us some problems.

c. Our main concern is with the proposal to eliminate the \$100 allocation which we can make to out-of-state students which automatically qualifies them for in-state tuition.

2. Appointment of an Athletic Director. A search committee was not appointed as the President "felt the need to move expeditiously" with respect to the appointment of an athletic director. The Athletic Advisory Committee presuming the creation of a search committee wished to recommend some members of that committee be on the search committee. These names arrived the same day a director was appointed. [Thus a classic breakdown in communications]. The President did note that the new athletic director, Mr. Richard Bestwick, is very much oriented toward academics.

3. Progress on Discussion Concerning an Ecumenical Institute. The committee holding the discussions has not met.

The President then asked for questions.

Professor Datta (PHYS) asked if there had been any new developments concerning the Savannah River Plant?

Holderman noted there had been two meetings sponsored by Faculty Advisory Committee held during the last month. No conclusions have been drawn by the University and we are still receiving input from various sources.

Professor Mack (ART) asked if anything further had been resolved on the issue of requesting permission from the Budget and Control Board to travel? [See Minutes of 2/3/88 and 3/2/88].

Holderman stated, again, it would take a great deal of time to change the process and that the policy remained "that approval must be sought if the travel is involved, even in the remotest way, with your connection to the University." We are continuing to work on the process.

Professor Smith (HIST) said he did not hear anything about the possibility of the lump sum for salary adjustment when the President discussed the budget.

Holderman responded that it is "still around" and we will bring it up again at an appropriate time. This money would be used to bring the salary average up.

He and President Lennon (Clemson University) met with the Commissioner of Higher Education to see if the comparison base could be changed from the southeastern average to one based on schools we would like to be compared with academically in the southeast.

Fellers asked if the process of searching for an athletic director had to go through the same affirmative action procedures as we do in other searches?

Holderman affirmed we essentially do but we moved more rapidly than in most other cases. He restated we are an equal opportunity employer.

There were no further questions.

Vice President Jameson reported on several elements of the benefits program.

1. There will be four pre-retirement seminars this year, and for the first time, the 14 April seminar will be open to any permanent faculty or staff member regardless of number of years to retirement.

2. Individual retirement planning services are available in the Systems Personnel Benefits Division Office.

3. USC may be chosen for a pilot operation which would feature a computer driven program for individuals (FRED). If we are chosen, FRED would be in place by mid-summer.

4. The optional retirement program now in place applies only to faculty and staff who were hired on or after 1 July 1987. There is an effort to amend that legislation to extend this option to those who are not vested with the state retirement system. The amendment also seeks to increase the rate of employer contribution to equal that of the state retirement program.

5. A joint program with Clemson University and Winthrop College is the development of materials which would allow ready assessment of benefits of the various plans under the optional retirement program.

6. The personal benefits statement is now a reality. It will be an annual document which will supply personal as well as general information. This will be available in May. We also have the capability to give an on-line benefits summary within a few minutes.

7. Some of the recommendations of the Faculty Welfare Committee are not within the perview of the USC office, but for those that are, the Insurance and Annuities Committee has been asked to undertake a comprehensive review.

Fellers asked about an early retirement option, claiming he had no vested interest in such a program.

Benefits Manager Bonnett said there had been discussion of an early retirement option which would change the eligibility from 30 to 25 years. It does not appear this will pass at this time, but the benefits formula may be changed. Instead of 1.25 percent of the first \$4800 and then 1.65 percent of difference of the average final compensation a straight 1.7 percent may be used.

Mack asked if the HMO medical benefit programs were being reviewed?

Bonnett answered that a committee was looking into those programs with suggestions being submitted by our office to the State Retirement System.

III. Reports of Committees.

A. Faculty Steering Committee, Professor Silvernail, Secretary:

Silvernail noted that catalog material must be acted upon by the May meeting to be in the new volume.

He announced the election of Professors Scott (ENGL) and Sidel (JOUR) to the Library Committee. It was also noted that identification of Faculty Steering Committee nominees was mandated by action of the general faculty (4 May 1982).

B. Grade Change Committee, Professor Beamer, Chair:

Beamer moved adoption of the report. It was adopted as distributed.

C. Curricula and Courses Committee, Professor Brown, Chair:

Brown called attention to the fact that this committee and Standards and Petitions Committee were both submitting reports from the same academic units. He explained this occurs because this committee is primarily concerned with curriculum while Standards and Petitions Committee reviews entrance and progression standards. He also noted that this committee does not have the authority to force units to make changes other than those authorized by Faculty Senate. He then moved adoption of section I, item A.

Professor Holst (FORL) expressed his disappointment with the foreign language requirements proposed in items A. and B. He moved that the foreign language sections be returned to committee for reconsideration.

Professor Barrington (HRTA) spoke against the motion on the basis the university minimum requirements would be met.

Professor Brasington (MART) also spoke against the motion.

Brown pointed out that it would serve no purpose to return to committee as the university minimum requirement would be met by the proposal.

Fellers ruled the motion out of order and suggested a different motion would be entertained. Holst then moved that the Senate vote the foreign language requirement down (~~not seconded~~). Professor Safko (PHYS) questioned the meaning of the motion.

Fellers pointed out the motion would delete that which meets university requirements.

Holst then moved to amend Brown's original motion by making the passing of FORL 122 the requirement.

Professors Logomarsino (HRTA), Safko and Hansen (ART) briefly spoke against the motion. Logomarsino pointed out it would add more hours to the 127 required. Safko said if such action were passed, it should be applied to all programs. Hansen advised his colleagues in foreign languages to work directly with the HRTA group.

Datta stated that while he believed a good foreign language ability would help the program he did not believe one additional course would do the job.

Professors Barrett (Sumter) and Mack questioned the relationship between FORL 122 and the demonstrated proficiency requirement.

Brown responded that the core requirement was based on the level of proficiency which could be expected from a student having two years of that language in high school. That required level would be gauged by a test developed and administered by the Foreign Language Department.

Holst added that a proficiency at the FORL 122 level was required of students in the Colleges of Humanities and Social Sciences and Sciences and Mathematics. The core requirement would be met by a proficiency at the level of the new FORL 101-102.

Fellers called for the vote on the amendment. The amendment was defeated. The Senate then passed section I., item A. as presented. Brown then moved the remaining portions of the report, item by item. The Senate approved each on separate votes. He then moved approval of the handout item - NURS 524, Geriatric Nutrition (3). Following a brief discussion, the course was approved.

D. Faculty Advisory Committee, Professor Knight, Chair:

Knight moved the committee recommendation concerning the clarification of the rules of eligibility for membership on faculty committees.

Professor Bly (CHEM) asked for the definition of "regularly appointed faculty member."

Professor Weasmer (GINT) quoted "a regular appointment is one which the faculty member is eligible for tenure."

Professor Mercer (SCMA) suggested the only and in the paragraph be changed to or. Knight, on behalf of the committee, accepted the suggestion.

The recommendation to change the Faculty Manual was accepted.

E. Scholastic Standards and Petitions Committee, Professor Franklin, Chair:

Franklin corrected, on p. A-23, section I. item B., HRTA 300 to 380. He then moved Section I., p. A-19 through p. A-26. Following a discussion over failure to progress results, the section was approved. He then moved section II. It was accepted. Section III was moved.

Weasmer suggested striking the proposed paragraph concerned with "Foreign Language Requirement" on the basis that two years of a foreign language is the admission requirement while proficiency is a graduation requirement. Professor Reeder (PHAR) responded "The College of Pharmacy graciously ~~ex~~cepts that."

The section was then approved.

F. Admissions Committee, Professor Marshall, Chair:

Marshall reported for the Senate's information on the current status of admissions (see Attachment #1). He noted that except for unusual cases, admissions are now closed (as of 4/1/88). The committee has reviewed 100-120 cases of applicants who did not meet entrance requirements. About eight exemptions have been granted based on the fact the student had no control over the problem, i.e., the high school offered no foreign language. Some of the remaining reviewees are expected to make up deficiencies in summer school.

The committee will consider the advisability of establishing a quality performance level to the core requirements.

G. Bookstore Committee, Professor Castner, Chair:

Castner gave some background to the proposal to recommend a change in the Faculty Manual, p. 47. The changes recommended are from ". . . will provide the University Bookstore . . ." to ". . ." ordering from the University Bookstore. . ." and from ". . . 120 days prior to the opening of the specific semester . . ." to "no later than ten days after receipt of Textbook Order Forms". . . . The requested changes were based on the findings of the committee obtained from a long term investigation of alleged problems of faculty in dealing with the University Bookstore in regard to textbook orders.

Acting Provost Bain expressed his support for the concept that students have textbooks available to them at the beginning of the semester. He pointed out that the University Bookstore while appraised of some of the faculty complaints had not been appraised of others. Thus a direliction of duty from both areas could be addressed. He also pointed out that as long as he was in the Provost's office there would be no retaliation toward faculty who did not order from the University Bookstore.

With respect to the "10 day" wording, this seems to be no problem. It was his opinion the wording of permitting individual decisions on the ordering procedure was the issue. He stated he would like to have the opportunity of the Provost's office working with the Bookstore Committee to work out language and procedures that would address various complaints.

Various Professors then recounted their experiences with the University Bookstore. None of these were very favorable.

Safko inquired if the wording "Colleges or departments" meant that faculty members could not order on an individual basis. Castner responded that this was not the intent of the wording.

A student spoke of the problems students have had with textbook purchases from the University Bookstore.

Fellers noted that the motion is a recommendation to change the Faculty Manual which then must be approved by the Board of Trustees. The recommendation passed.

G. Faculty Welfare Committee, Professor Howard-Hill, Chair:

Howard-Hill reported the committee has consented to the formation of a subcommittee to look into the matter of a child day-care program. This subcommittee will consist of Professors Tucker (SOCY) and Strobel (BADM).

IV. Report of Secretary.

Silvernail announced the May 4, 1988 meeting will be held following the General Faculty meeting (3:00 p.m.) in Belk Auditorium.

V. Unfinished Business.
None.

VI. New Business.
None.

VII. Good of the Order.
None.

VIII. Announcements.
None.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:23 p.m.