

UNCORRECTED

MINUTES

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

March 19, 1996

Ferguson Forum

3:30 p.m.

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Members absent and not represented by an alternate: Mathew Winston, Eugene Cooper, Gene Dobson, Barney Cargile, Subhabrata Chakraborti, Margaret Garner, and Will Schreiber.

The minutes for February 1995 were approved.

President's report

SORENSEN MEETINGS

Faculty Senate President Norm Stein reported that President-elect Andrew Sorenson would be on the campus in July, and has expressed eagerness to meet with members of the Faculty Senate. Sorenson will be on campus approximately once every two weeks until he settles into the new office.

MENTORING PROGRAM

Stein commended the Senate's mentoring program and Claudia Johnson's work and initiative on this project. He reiterated that the mentoring program may be one of the best single contributions of the Senate this year to the long term success of the University.

LOBBYING

Stein also gave kudos to Scott Bridges for his work with the University lobbyists and legislators. He believes that this has been an excellent move for the Senate and the University, and hopes that this effort continues next year.

HMO PLANS

Stein reported that he had received a listing of the medical plans available to faculty members at the University of California which increased his concern over the suggested introduction of an HMO plan here at the University of Alabama. The California plans included several HMO plans and only one fee for service plan similar to the Blue Cross/Blue Shield plan the University currently uses. The most expensive HMO plan was less than \$30/month, while the fee for service plan was \$618/month. Stein has asked to address the Benefits Committee to share these concerns.

ENGINEERING MERGERS

Stein also reported that the College of Engineering is proposing to close the department of Mineral Engineering. Chuck Hobby talked to Provost Taaffe, who agreed that it should come under the policy for Merger and Discontinuance of Academic Programs. Engineering Dean Griffin sent a document to the Senate. Stein will forward it to the Academic Affairs Committee.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Becky Ladewig, one of the Senate's appointees to the committee on Merger & Discontinuance of Academic Programs, is retiring from the University this spring. We will need to elect a new member of the committee at the April meeting.

GRADUATE FACULTY REACCREDITATION

The Graduate Council's new policy that graduate faculty be reaccredited periodically has been criticized by several faculty members. The policy calls upon each school and department to set their own standards. Norm sent a letter to Ron Rogers suggesting that policies such as this should be sent to the Faculty Senate for comment.

FACULTY HANDBOOK ???

Stein reported that Provost Taaffe has promised to have the new Faculty Handbook approved in a couple of weeks. Stein stated that he felt this should be a high priority item for the Senate, even if it has to meet in May.

COMPUTER POLICY

The University's new computer policy has also been submitted to Taaffe, and currently is sitting on his desk. Stein would like to get these loose ends tied up this academic year.

PHASED RETIREMENT

Stein commented on the idea he earlier introduced of 'phased retirement.'. He hoped that next year's Senate would try to get it considered.

Reports from Senate Committees:

TAAFFE'S PLAN FOR UNIVERSITY FUTURE

Marcus Brown, reporting for the **Academic Affairs** Committee, said that the Committee on University Plans has split itself into three subcommittees to consider Dr. Taaffe's suggestions on re-inventing the University. Members of the Academic Affairs Committee were assigned to serve as liaisons to each of the subcommittees. Ray White will be attending the meetings of the subcommittee on "Integration of Technology into the Classroom." Peggy Jessee and Steve Tomlinson attended the meeting of the subcommittee on "Integrating Undergraduate and Graduate Programs." They reported that there was already a program in place for integration of these programs, but that it has been largely unused. Margaret Garnet, Ginny Raymond, Selwyn Hollingsworth and Gene Dobson would be attending the subcommittee addressing the issue of "Criteria for Viability." They reported that a preliminary list of criteria has been drawn up. (That draft list will be included as an appendix to these minutes.)

FACULTY WORKLOAD

Nick Stinnet, cochair of the **Research & Service** Committee said that the committee's draft report on the survey on faculty work load assignments was ready for senators to comment. The survey was distributed during the meeting. Senators were asked to make comments by April 10.

Planning and Operations, Financial Affairs, Student Affairs and Senate Operations had no reports.

There were no reports from Senators on University Committees and there was no **Old Business**.

New Business

LOBBYING / EDUCATION DAY

Scott Bridges reported that the Faculty Senate Legislative Agenda Committee went to Education Day in Montgomery, and visited with all the local legislators. About 2000 people were there. The House bill for education will be a flat funding bill. The Senate may give more funding to education. Bridges came back firmly convinced that we need to make our case with our legislators. We need to know them and they need to know us and our concerns. Bridges reports that some legislators expect a surplus in the Special Education Fund in the next few years, but all of that will probably go to K-12. There is some support for a lottery bill similar to the Georgia lottery where 100% of the proceeds goes for college scholarships. First year revenues of such a bill are expected to be about \$75 million. Beyond that, we can only expect have crumbs: about \$10 -20 million to be divided up among all the higher education institutions. It might be good for us to contact colleagues in Georgia to see how they like their approach.

TIAA/CREF CUTS ???

Stein recounted that TIAA/CREF was an early target for budget cuts, but that the faculty had made their views clear to the legislators and lobbyists. And now such a cut is no longer a part of any budget plans. This underscores the importance of our voice being heard in Montgomery. Before our effort, the debate in Montgomery was 'How much to cut education.' Now the debate is 'level funding, and maybe a small increase.' The big difference can be attributed in part to the work of Scott Bridges and his committee.

LIBRARY FUNDING

Stein has talked with Marion Peavy about creating a 'faculty fund for the library' as part of the capitol campaign.

There was a motion and a second to consider asking the faculty for a special contribution towards library expenses. Chuck Hobby spoke against the motion, arguing that the faculty shouldn't be asked to support the 'essential support structure' of the university.

Others argued against it, saying that we now have the ability to donate, and to earmark our donation for the library. What would a resolution achieve that we can't already do?

Some suggested that this would send a message about our desire to support the library. Perhaps if faculty demonstrated a desire to support the library, the legislature would take it more seriously. But others reported that K-12 teachers are always buying supplies out of their own pocket, and the legislature is not picking up anymore.

A point of order was raised: In order to consider the present motion which was not in the agenda, the rules would have to be suspended.

A motion to suspend the rules was made, but the vote in favor of that motion failed.

There being no further business, the Senate went into executive session to consider nominations for the Faculty Senate Distinguished Service Award.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcus Brown, Secretary

This page is still under construction. Please send corrections or suggestions to Marcus Brown: mbrown@cs.ua.edu