

## **Memorandum**

**To: Faculty Senate**

**From: Professor Janet Burke, Executive Secretary**

**Date: February 3, 1997**

**Re: Faculty Senate Minutes, February 3, 1997**

The Faculty Senate Meeting was called to order on Monday, February 3, 1997 at 3:30 PM in O'Leary 222. The following Senators were in attendance:

William Phelan, Education; Dominick Sama, Chemical & Nuclear Eng; Burton Segall, Civil Eng; John Ting, Civil Eng; Bodo Reinisch, Electrical Eng; Ross Holmstrom, Electrical Eng; Venkatarama Krishnan, Electrical Eng; John McKelliget, Mechanical Eng; Robert Parkin, Mechanical Eng; Carol Barry, Plastics Eng; Laura Punnett, Work Environment; Robert Nicolosi, Clinical Lab Science; Vincent Pivnicny, Health; Cheryl Cox, Nursing; Sheila Perrault, Nursing; Connie Seymour, Physical Therapy; Michael Carter, Economics; William Coughlin, English; Charles Ryan, English; Peter Blewett, History; Jonathan Liebowitz, History; Michael Jones, Legal Studies; Robert Innis, Philosophy; Hai B. Pho, Political Science; Jon Hellstedt, Psychology; Levon Chorbajian, Sociology; Albert Kowalak, Chemistry; Giampiero Pecelli, Computer Science; Dan S. Golomb, Earth Science; Thomas Kudzma, Mathematics; James Graham-Eagle, Mathematics; Alan Doerr, Mathematics; Mary Beth Ruskai, Mathematics; George Chabot, Physics; Arthur Mittler, Physics; Irwin Shapiro, Management; Riaz Khan, OMMIS; Philip Moss, Policy and Planning; Arno Minkkinen, Art; John Ogasapian, Academic Studies; Scott Fredrickson, Music Business; Kay Roberts, Music Performance; Helen Jones, Library; Mario Aste, Language.

The Senate began the meeting by observing a minute of silence in memory of Senator Paul Tsongas.

### **Agenda**

#### **I. Announcements**

Senate President Nicolosi made the following announcements: (1) Vice-President Botman plans to attend the March Senate Meeting. (2) Meetings with the Executive Committee and Chancellor Hogan have been scheduled from 3:30-4:00 PM in the Trustees Room Cumnock Hall, immediately preceding the regularly scheduled Executive Committee Meetings on Feb. 18th, March 24th, April 22nd. (3) Today's agenda is very full, consequently time guidelines have been established and I have asked the Parliamentarian to assist me in adhering to them. (4) Professor Mario Aste or his designee will be available at today's meeting to help clarify issues relating to item VI on the agenda- the establishment of new departments. (5) Senate Standing Committees - Graduate Policy and Affairs, and Budget and Priorities have held meetings to review the proposals of the new department in Regional Economic and Social Development. Future meetings are planned. The Executive Committee will meet with representatives of the new department on February 18th. It is expected that a discussion of the academic programs in the new department will be an item on the agenda of the March Senate Meeting.

## **II. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the December 2, 1996 meeting of the Faculty Senate were unanimously accepted as presented.

## **III. Reports on Meetings-Board of Trustees-**

Professor Phelan reported on the November/December meetings of the Board of Trustees. Copies of his report were distributed to Senators with the materials for the day's meeting. Professor Phelan also reported on the January/February meetings. Since these meetings are not yet concluded copies of a draft report on the meetings were distributed at the attendance desk. A final report will be distributed with the agendas for the March Senate Meeting. Professor Phelan called attention to the faculty visiting lecture program following up on the President's program in area high schools, and the faculty exchange program, which will be discussed at the February meeting of the Intercampus Council.

## **IV. Senate Guest- Dana Skinner,**

Director of University Athletics reported on recent developments in the University athletic program. He showed slides, which highlighted the geographic and aesthetic aspects of the new athletic facilities. In response to questions from Senators he indicated that the hockey arena will be used predominantly for ice hockey, that the basketball program will stay where it is. He also indicated that pedestrian traffic problems associated with the new campus center are being studied. He concluded his presentation with a presentation of the winning logo from a national poster contest, which was designed by a student from the Lowell Summer Sports Program.

## **V. Senate Standing Committees**

1. Academic Governance - Professor Jones reported that the committee has been reviewing the By-laws in conjunction with the Workload Committee regarding workload of Faculty Senate officers. The committee will confer with the administration regarding funding and then make recommendations to the Senate.
2. Undergraduate Policy - Professor Mittler announced that the next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Friday, February 7th at 2:00PM in Olney 521. The General Education Committee met last Friday.
3. Graduate Policy and Affairs- Professor Parkin reported that although the Committee met with representatives of the new department in Regional Economic and Social Development, no business was conducted because the committee failed to achieve a quorum. Professor Parkin presented the following resolution which was deferred to today's meeting when the December meeting ran out of time.

**RESOLUTION** The Faculty Senate recommends that the foreign language requirement for the Ph.D. in Physics be dropped.

In the discussion that followed it was pointed out that currently every student is required to pass an exam in two foreign languages and can substitute a computer language for one of the languages. A senator commented that if the emphasis on campus is on multiculturalism it would be short-sighted to eliminate the language requirement. Professor Parkin indicated that comparable programs have already dropped their modern language

requirements. Professor Ruskai inquired whether this is a departmental or a university issue. Professor Parkin responded that this was debatable.

VOTE YES 27 NO 6 ABSTAIN 3

4. Research and Development- Professor Punnett reported that the next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Monday, February 10th at 3:30PM in Ball 301. The committee is discussing two issues: (1) the formula for allocating TAs to departments; and (2) the determination of workload in consideration of the research activities of faculty.

5. Academic Resources- Senate President Nicolosi presented the following three resolutions from the committee, which were on the agenda of the December Senate meeting and were deferred to today's meeting when the December meeting ran out of time.

In presenting the following three resolutions the Faculty Senate acknowledges and appreciates the efforts underway to provide technological resources and reaffirms the impact and the high priority given to this area.

RESOLUTION 1 The Faculty Senate recommends that the University provide resources to create a computer user services support system with the requisite personnel to provide faculty and staff with reliable information, assistance, support and trouble shooting on all types of computing and telecommunications needs.

DISCUSSION Professor Ruskai presented the background of the resolutions based on the committee's work over the past academic year, and indicated that she would like to offer a friendly amendment that reflects the original intention of the committee.

MOTION To amend the resolution to replace "computer user services" " with the original language "unified user services"

VOTE YES 32 NO 1 ABSTAIN 1

VOTE on amended resolution YES 34 NO 0 ABSTAIN 3

RESOLUTION 2 Access to the Internet, World Wide Web and other telecommunications services has become a vital and necessary academic resource for faculty and students. Therefore, the Faculty Senate recommends that the University provide sufficient equipment and personnel to ensure that all faculty and students have Internet and World Wide Web access, and that access capability from off campus sites be improved.

DISCUSSION A Senator asked in what way the current system is deficient. Senate President Nicolosi responded that currently many faculty are not connected and that often the system is overused and difficult to access.

Provost Wagner commented that he agrees 100% with the first resolution and informed the Senate that a consultant will be brought in to look at these needs on campus. Regarding Resolution 2 he indicated his support and stated that the University is undertaking a technology upgrade on campus including telecommunications.

VOTE YES 37 NO 0 ABSTAIN 1

RESOLUTION 3 The Faculty Senate commends the Administration for its support and funding of the electronic library. We are acutely aware of the shortage of funds for the purchase of books and journals. However, we request that funds for purchase of books and periodicals not available in electronic form be sustained and augmented. Our library print resources should be brought in line with other comparable institutions in the Boston Library Consortium.

DISCUSSION There was a discussion of the last sentence in the resolution. The following motion was made and seconded.

MOTION To amend the resolution by removing the last sentence.

Members of the Committee pointed out that the word "comparable" refined the limits of the Committee's intent, and that it was the intention of the Committee to upgrade the existing holdings.

VOTE on amendment YES 5 NO 28 ABSTAIN 1

VOTE on resolution YES 39 NO 0 ABSTAIN 1

6. Budget and Priorities Committee- Helen Jones reported that the next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for February 6th in her office in O'Leary Library. The Committee met on December 19 with representatives from the new department in Regional Economic and Social Development in order to review program proposals. She indicated that the Committee felt that while the new RESD Department exists at the welcome of the Chancellor, the Budget & Priorities Committee awaits additional data on which to base analyses of budget impact. An assessment by the B&P Committee will be submitted to the Senate after the Committee has received and reviewed the additional data.

She presented the following resolution from the Committee:

RESOLUTION The Faculty Senate recommends that the existing Policy & Planning Department should be allowed to formalize its administrative integration and physical move from the College of Management Science into the College of Arts & Sciences.

DISCUSSION There was a discussion of the current status of the Policy and Planning Department and the new Department in Regional Economic and Social Development. The Senate was informed that of the eight original members of the Policy and Planning Department, seven were planning to move to the new department in RESD, and that the remaining member was planning to move to the existing department of OM/MIS. Provost Wagner reported that the new department exists currently, but there is a transition time.

Professor Ruskai made the following motion, which was seconded.

MOTION To table the resolution pending clarification of the existence of the department.

VOTE YES 22 NO 5 ABSTAIN 10

The resolution was tabled.

Professor Punnett asked why the Senate can't get clarification regarding the new department now. Senate President Nicolosi responded that the Senate had voted on the issue and needed to move on in the agenda.

## **VI. New departments**

Senate President Nicolosi reported that the Executive Committee, after a careful review of the Senate By-Laws and the minutes of previous Senate Meetings, has formulated the following resolution for the Senate's review, and discussion. This resolution relates to general policy. Representatives from the new department of Regional Economic and Social Development have begun the process of submitting their requests for programs to the appropriate Senate committees and it is expected that there will be items on the agenda of the March Senate Meeting relating to this.

**RESOLUTION** The Faculty Senate recognizes that the Chancellor has authority over resources and that the Faculty Senate has the authority over academic programs, therefore although the Chancellor can form a new department in consultation with faculty and union representatives, it is the prerogative of the faculty and its Senate to approve or disapprove all academic programs.

**DISCUSSION** Professor Ruskai called attention to the Senate By-laws, page 1, Line 23 and ff. Professor Kegel stated that he would like to amend the resolution.

**MOTION** To amend the resolution to change "...The Chancellor can form.." to "the chancellor can propose to form".

The motion was seconded.

Professor Aste, President of the Faculty Union informed the Senate that the union leadership's role is to protect everyone on the faculty, and that there are precedents for this role in the establishment of new departments. He reminded the Senate that the Union Executive Board is composed of elected representatives from each college as well as elected at large representatives.

Professor Jones stated that the resolution was brought forward to remind the Chancellor that the Senate has a responsibility over academic programs.

Professor Siegel, Senate Parliamentarian pointed out that the resolution might be inappropriate, since it may be creating a new power not in the By-laws. It was suggested that if the Senate's intent is to remind the Chancellor about the Senate's role in academic matters, the Senate should quote the relevant section of the By-laws.

Professor Phelan made the following motion:

**MOTION** To table the resolution and refer the contents to the Academic Governance Committee.

The motion was seconded.

Professor Aste requested that the Union be kept informed.

VOTE YES 32 NO 0 ABSTAIN 2

Professor Parkin cited the resolution that is on the meeting agenda from the Budget and Priorities Committee, which was tabled pending clarification of the existence of the department. He requested input from the Union on this and stated that there is nothing in the union charter relating to academics, suggesting that the union stay in its bailiwick and that the senate stay in its.

Professor Phelan commented that the Academic Governance committee should let interested parties know when it plans to meet to discuss this matter. Professor Ruskai suggested that the spirit of the resolution could be achieved in the form of a letter to the Chancellor from the Executive Committee.

#### **VII. Ad Hoc Program Review Committee.**

Senate President Nicolosi indicated that copies of the Committee's "Revised Report" were distributed with the materials for today's meeting, along with a request for specific resolutions regarding the revised report. As indicated in the Senate agenda he then requested a motion to "receive the report". The following motion was made and seconded:

MOTION The Faculty Senate moves to receive the Revised Report of the Ad Hoc Program Review Committee.

VOTE YES 30 NO 0 ABSTAIN 2

There were no resolutions regarding the report.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00PM.