

MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING OF APRIL 5, 2001

**** NOTE: Due to a mechanical failure, the meeting was not tape recorded. Therefore, a verbatim account of the meeting's proceedings is not possible. Reports and summations are provided in as much detail as is practicable.**

The meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order by Chair Dan Sheffer at 3:06 p.m. in Room 201 of the Buckingham Center for Continuing Education on Thursday, April 5, 2001.

Forty of the sixty-four members of the Faculty Senate were in attendance. Senators Fisher, Hanlon, Kim, Lavelli, Lyons, Ofobike, Ritchey, Spiker, and Wyszynski were absent with notice. Senators Binienda, Braun, Gibson, Hajjafar, Hebert, Holz, Louscher, Mothes, Pope, Purdy, Redle, Turning, and Weaver were absent without notice.

SENATE ACTIONS

- * APPROVED THE SPRING 2001 SPRING COMMENCEMENT CANDIDATES.**
- * PROPOSED FACULTY SENATE BYLAW CHANGE TO INCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON RETIREES.**
- * PROPOSED FACULTY SENATE BYLAW CHANGE REGARDING FACULTY SENATE MEETING ATTENDANCE BY SENATORS WHO BECOME UNABLE TO ATTEND MEETINGS REGULARLY DUE TO CONFLICTING PROFESSIONAL DUTIES, IMPERATIVE PERSONAL AFFAIRS, OR ILLNESS.**
- * APPROVED CRC CURRICULUM PROPOSALS.**
- * APPROVED FACULTY SENATE BYLAW CHANGE REGARDING FACULTY SENATE MEETING ATTENDANCE BY SENATORS ON PROFESSIONAL, MEDICAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE.**
- * AMENDED RTP DOCUMENT REGARDING LETTERS OF REAPPOINTMENT.**

I. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA - Senator Qammar moved to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Senator Filer-Tubaugh.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 1 - Senator Qammar moved to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Senator Saliga.

III. CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS - Due to the full agenda of today's meeting, the Chair had no remarks.

IV. SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS - Chair Sheffer reported the deaths of two former colleagues from the University. First, Mr. Hobart W. Adams died March 12. Mr. Hobart received his BA degree from Kent State University, and his MBA and DBA from Indiana University. He retired as Professor of Accounting from The University of Akron.

The second death was that of Carolyn Elaine Hann, who passed away March 12. Ms. Hann graduated as valedictorian from Ellet High School in 1961. She attended The University of Akron, where she earned a BA in Education and a master's degree in English. Her passion was teaching literature to middle school and senior high students. She also taught 10 years at The University of Akron, including several years as a teacher in the Upward Bound Program.

Chair Sheffer then asked for a motion to approve the Spring 2001 Commencement candidates. Senator Midha made the motion; Senator Zap seconded it. The body then voted its approval of the commencement candidates.

V. REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - The Executive Committee met three times in February, twice with only committee members and once with the President and Provost.

Issues the Executive Committee addressed:

1.) Request for Senate seats by Association of The University of Akron Retirees - The Association had requested that it be granted two seats on the Senate. Chair Sheffer stated that members of the Association were highly involved in the University. Senator Sterns echoed his comments stating there were over 300 dues-paying members who were very active and involved in the University community. Senator Erikson added that retirees had been voting members as part of the University Council prior to the Faculty Senate. Provost Hickey stated that he thought the Senate should consider this request very carefully as it could potentially open the door to other non-constituencies. Senator Yoder then made a motion to amend the request so that it read: "THE ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON RETIREES SHALL ELECT TWO SENATORS FROM ITS DUES-PAYING RETIRED FACULTY MEMBERS."

This was seconded by Senator Saliga.

2.) A Senator on leave for one semester – There is no rule in the Faculty Senate Bylaws regarding replacement of a Senator who is on leave for one semester only and the question centered on representation. The Executive Committee felt that those represented by the Senator should be able to decide whether the Senator on leave should be replaced (through a new election) or should be allowed to retain his/her seat. Full representation of all faculty is the goal.

Therefore, the Executive Committee is proposing to amend the Senate Bylaws under (H)(5)(f) to add to the sentence: "Senators who are on professional, medical, or administrative leave for one semester or less will retain their seats **IF APPROVED BY THEIR CONSTITUENTS. IF NOT APPROVED, THE SEAT SHALL BE CONSIDERED VACANT.**" At which point, an election of a new Faculty Senate representative is held. Therefore, the motion is to amend the FS bylaws as proposed.

Senator Qammar then made a friendly amendment to the motion, stating it should read: "**IF APPROVED BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY OF THOSE VOTING IN THEIR CONSTITUENCY. IF NOT APPROVED, THE SEAT SHALL BE CONSIDERED VACANT.**"

This was seconded by Senator Yoder.

3.) Faculty Senate Meeting Attendance – Attendance to Senate meetings of late has been poor. In the next two months, Faculty Senate will be dealing with some very important issues. The Executive Committee urges all Senators to make attending the Senate meetings their highest priority.

4.) Additional Curriculum Proposals that were inadvertently left off the list for approval by Senate at last meeting; these were passed and sent to the Board by Executive Committee.

5.) Conflict of Interest Committee – Per President Proenza's request, the Executive Committee was directed to choose individuals from Senate to sit on the Conflict of Interest Committee and begin work on this document with Dr. Newkome. The four individuals who will be representing Faculty Senate include three from the original Conflict of Interest Committee, Dr. Kennedy, Dr. Lillie, and Mr. Brant Lee, and a new member, Dr. Kim Calvo. The four of us will be meeting with Dr. Newkome on March 9, 2001.

6.) Associated Student Government Proposal - Elliott Anderson presented ASG's request that ASG be allowed to conduct independent student evaluations of faculty. Data from those evaluations would be made available to students via a Blue Book – publication of the evaluation results. While the Executive Committee supported the idea of student evaluations and of making that information available to students, the committee had several questions, concerns, and comments regarding the proposal. Therefore, the Executive Committee forwarded this proposal to the Student Affairs Committee to examine in greater detail. We should be hearing from this committee about the proposal in the near future.

Issues the Executive Committee, President, and Provost discussed:

- 1.) Revision of RTP Guidelines – The Executive Committee, President, and Provost discussed the status of the revision of the RTP guidelines. The President then related that he had obtained information from two other institutions (Georgia & Purdue) which had been through a similar RTP revision process. As he saw it, faculty needed to understand that the issues included: a) Diversity of the RTP process and criteria - the need for commonality of process across groups (appropriate to disciplines) to ensure fair treatment; b) Creating uniformly high standards institutionally – importance of ensuring high quality throughout the University; moving as a whole to uniformly high standards. The question of college-wide review committees was discussed as well the issue of external review.
- 2.) Budget – The Executive Committee asked the President to address rumors surrounding the merit pool/salary increases; discussed the timeline for the budget, and what PBC is doing in regard to that process.
- 3.) Salary Sheet - Asked the President to provide faculty with a sheet of salary information - comparisons of salaries at various ranks in the University; faculty had been receiving these but not within the last two years; President said that that would be provided to faculty.
- 4.) Enrollment Strategy Plan - Executive Committee has extended an invitation to Vice President Roney to attend a Faculty Senate meeting in the near future to present information on the Enrollment Strategy Plan, to update the Senate on what's being done and what the future holds.
- 5.) Planning & Budgeting Committee involvement in the Strategic Planning Process – discussed the need to include PBC in this planning process; PBC will be directly involved.

REMARKS OF THE PROVOST - Provost Hickey reported on the status of the University's budget. The state's Office of Budget and Management had informed the Ohio Board of Regents that it would be cutting the higher education budget by 1% this year. If only our instructional support allocation is included in the calculation, we will lose approximately \$1 million from our current budget. If other line items are included in the calculation, we will lose even more. In order for the University to avoid reducing operating budgets, the Provost stated that all unallocated salary savings for the months of April, May and June '01 would be sequestered at least through FY00-01. The Provost stated that it may prove necessary to continue this approach into FY01-02, should the reductions in our instructional support continue into next year. Given the uncertain status of the state's next biennial budget (which, at the moment, does not look promising for higher education), it is premature to tell you with any certainty whether it will be necessary to sequester some or all of the FY01-02 salary savings.

The Provost also stated that he was working with Hank Nettling to create a 3% merit salary increase pool for faculty through a proposed 6% tuition increase. Concerns were raised regarding faculty searches in progress. Senators were told that cuts would not be made for faculty searches nearing their completion.

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND CALENDAR COMMITTEE - Professor Stokes mentioned that the committee was working on definitions for part-time faculty and for term faculty. No written report was available at this time. See (**Appendix A**) for Executive Summary for Rule 3359-20-037, Guidelines for initial appointment, reappointment, tenure, and promotion of regular faculty.

CURRICULUM REVIEW COMMITTEE - Professor Stokes presented curriculum proposals which had been approved by the Provost. The Senate now needed to vote on those proposals. Senator Lillie stated that he had one correction to proposal number ED-01-26. The department listed should have been Counseling and Education. The Senate then voted its approval of the proposals (**Appendix B**).

CAMPUS FACILITIES PLANNING COMMITTEE - Senator Sterns presented three space reallocation resolutions as follows:

- 1. The Faculty Senate supports the proposed expansion for the Institute of Health & Social Policy and the Center for Gerontological Health Nursing and Advocacy on the 5th floor of Polsky.**
- 2. The Faculty Senate supports the temporary assignment of the University Police Department Detective Division to the Trecaso Building until permanent space is assigned in the Goodwill Building.** Phil Bartlett presented the request for the use of the Trecaso Building as the temporary location for the University Police Department Detective Division from North Hall until permanent quarters can be arranged in the Goodwill Building. When Registration moves to the new Student Affairs Building, estimated in November 2003, then the police will move into the Goodwill Building.
- 3. The Faculty Senate supports the modification of Zook Hall 201 as part of the expansion of the Office of the Dean of the College of Education. The Committee recommends that this construction be accelerated so that the classroom will be available for Fall semester.** Phil Bartlett presented this request in order to accommodate remodeling and improvements on the 2nd floor of Zook for expansion of the office for the Dean of the College of Education.

Each of these proposals were approved by the body.

COMPUTING & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES COMMITTEE - Senator Dechambeau reported on the committee members' experiences with the laptop pilot program and felt that laptops should be deployed to faculty at least one semester prior to distribution to students. This would enable faculty to become familiar with technology and better able to incorporate it into their teaching. The entire laptop project must be a university-wide effort, and as many people as possible need to be involved. She also stated that CCTC had a new website. Senators were encouraged to send to her items they wished posted there. See (**Appendix C**) for VPCIO Technology Fund Expenditures History.)

Senator Erickson asked whether the committee had been collecting data regarding the laptop program

and on related student expenses. Senator DeChambeau stated that the committee had not been charged to do so but did think it a good idea. She had no definitive answers at this point in time.

OHIO FACULTY COUNCIL - Senator Huff stated that the Ohio Faculty Council had met on March 9. The topic was the "State Supported College and University Performance Report: Student outcomes and Experiences" compiled at the request of Governor Taft. He provided a written report and stated that Senators wishing additional information about his report would find it in the Faculty Senate office or on the Ohio Board of Regents website. This document contains a great deal of information and allows us to compare and contrast our situation with that of other institutions in Ohio. He also mentioned that results of the part-time faculty survey were available in the Senate office.

FACULTY RESEARCH COMMITTEE - Revised list of 2001 spring grants (**Appendix D**).

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - The Faculty Senate Bylaw change proposed last month was amended by Senator Erickson to read: "Senators who are on professional medical, or administrative leave for one semester or less will retain their seats IF APPROVED BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY OF THOSE VOTING IN THE CONSTITUENCY. IF NOT APPROVED, THE SEAT SHALL BE CONSIDERED VACANT."

The amended Bylaw change was approved by the body.

Senator Qammar then moved to substitute draft 11 for draft 10 of the RTP Guidelines document approved by Senate at the last meeting. Senator Erickson then proposed an amendment regarding letters of reappointment which stated: "THE LETTER, IF POSITIVE, SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE A CLEAR STATEMENT OF HOW TO ENHANCE HIS/HER PERFORMANCE TOWARD MEETING THE GOAL OF TENURE AND PROMOTION."

Senator Sakezles stated that insertion of the amendment into the RTP document was needed in other places as well as what had been proposed. Professor Stokes stated that this would be done. Further, Professor Stokes offered the friendly amendment to change the word "should" to "shall" in Senator Erikson's proposed amendment. The Senate then approved this amendment.

VII. NEW BUSINESS - There was none.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT - The Chair called for a motion to adjourn. Senator Midha so moved, which was seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.