

JOURNAL OF THE FACULTY SENATE
 The University of Oklahoma (Norman campus)
 Regular session - March 14, 1994 - 3:30 p.m.
 Jacobson Faculty Hall 102

The Faculty Senate was called to order by Professor Bruce H. Hinson, Chair.

PRESENT: Cornelius, R.C. Davis, Faulconer, Fiedler, Friedrich, Genova, Gordon, Gutierrez, Harper, Havener, L. Hill, Hinson, Holmes, Johnson, Jordan, Lakshmivarahan, Landes, Latrobe, London, Loving, R. Miller, Mock, D. Morgan, Ogilvie, Pailes, Reeder, Rhodes, Roegiers, Sankowski, Schubert, Stock, Sullivan, Sutton, Tepker, Tiab, Watson, Weaver-Meyers, Whitecotton, Wiegand

PSA representatives: Barth, Marshall, Spencer

UOSA representative: Huang

ABSENT: Anderson, Badiru, Barman, Boyd, Dillon, Fonteneau, Kincade, Koger, Kukreti, Mouser, Van Gundy, Weinel

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APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

The Senate Journal for the regular session of February 14, 1994, was approved.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The faculty awards luncheon will be held Tuesday, April 12, 1994, at 11:30 a.m. in the Union ballroom. Invitations will be sent to the faculty in the near future. (Note: The awards luncheon was re-scheduled from Wednesday, April 6, due to a change in the Regents meeting).

REMARKS BY MR. JOE MARSHALL ABOUT THE EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mr. Joe Marshall, coordinator of the Employee Assistance Program, distributed a brochure describing the program (available from the Senate office). He explained that the EAP operates through the Counseling and Testing office located at Goddard Health Center. Through this program, faculty and staff are referred to the best resource for handling personal problems, which may first be a primary care physician, depending on the type of insurance. EAP offers a three-session problem-focused program as well as group consultations, such as sessions with an entire department. Often, supervisors will refer individuals who have alcohol or drug problems. Mr. Marshall encouraged faculty to refer colleagues with problems to the EAP. A situation can be handled as a crisis if necessary. Mr. Marshall also conducts seminars for new supervisors and gives presentations to departments on stress management.

EXPLANATION OF THE SINGLE I.D. SYSTEM

Vice President for Student Affairs Roland Smith asked for the opportunity to explain the proposal for a single I.D. system. He said this is being called the "one card system" or "all campus card." The purpose is to make student services efficient and friendly. About 200 universities are already using this kind of system for purchasing food and books, checking out library books, cashing checks, printing out financial statements, and voting in campus elections. David Shirley and Fred Weddle are co-chairing a task force, and they are interested in getting input from the university community.

Mr. Weddle pointed out that a consultant in these systems had been hired to advise the task force. Goals include making services easier for students to access and improving financial access and security controls. In a poll of students last spring, students identified three areas they would like improved: billing and fee payment procedures, personal safety and security, and accuracy of information. The objective is to have one access card that could be used for everything on campus, such as checking out a library book, accessing food service, and verifying eligibility for student services. This would eliminate duplication of data bases, be available 24 hours a day, and increase security. With this card, it would be possible to open residence hall doors and have a record of when an individual entered the residence hall. Computer labs could tell how many users they had, keep out ineligible people, and cut down on equipment thefts. Card swipe emergency telephones could be accessed that would notify the police department that an individual at a particular location was in need of help. A student could be located for a parent by putting a message alert on the system. A system could also be made available for faculty and staff.

Prof. Ogilvie asked how lost cards would be handled. Mr. Weddle said every student's card could vary as to what s/he could access. A student could request that the entire card or certain services be invalidated. Prof. Loving asked about the cost. Mr. Weddle said he did not have that information yet.

Prof. Gordon, noting that units can access central data bases and update records, asked how the task force was coordinating with others around campus. Mr. Weddle said this is a university-wide effort and has broad representation.

Prof. Wiegand asked whether any concern had been expressed about the ability to monitor students entering and leaving buildings and to access records. Dr. Smith said this information would not be a public record, the data base would have security, and it would be strictly controlled.

Mr. David Kendrick, UOSA President, asked about student involvement. Prof. Gordon said he was also concerned about faculty involvement. Mr. Weddle said the central committee was small, but there will be subcommittees involving more people who will get input from other individuals. It will take several months just to gather information. Dr. Smith said the final proposal will be presented for reaction.

Prof. Landes noted that it is difficult to keep data bases confidential. He asked why it was necessary to keep records on people going in and out of buildings. Mr. Weddle said those records would not be kept on a permanent basis. Prof. Mock pointed out that what was being described was very different than simply an electronic key that lets people in and out of doors. Dr. Smith said the decision could be made not to implement an electronic card with memory. Prof. Weaver-Meyers reminded the Senate that the library keeps similar records, but those records are destroyed as soon as possible. Mr. Weddle said there would be some control over how long the information is kept and who has access. Prof. Havener commented that there are two different issues: a centralized data base and a single I.D. card, and different decisions could be made on those two points. He asked how the card would work for the off-campus students. Dr. Smith said there would be no difference when they are using services on this campus. The task force would have to discuss off-campus usage.

Mr. Cody Towns, a student and Mr. Kendrick's chief of staff, noted that this could be very costly. He asked whether the proposal had been broken down into stages or priorities. Mr. Weddle said it was still too early for that. Dr. Smith added that the emphasis would be on services to students. Mr. Towns urged the committee not to set any priorities without having student input.

SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT, by Prof. Bruce Hinson

The following chair's report was distributed at the meeting:

"The university will recognize Monday, January 16, 1995, as the official Martin Luther King holiday, acknowledging what President Van Horn calls a 'broad consensus' that it should be observed. His memorandum of March 4 notes that the state and the federal governments, a majority of big 8 universities, and many businesses already mark this holiday. Of most importance to faculty on this campus, the holiday will require a revision of the academic calendar to accommodate both the day off and the regent-mandated minimum number of class meeting days. The most obvious, least complicated adjustment would appear to be the replacement of 'Help Day' with a final day of class. The president has asked for comments from faculty, staff, and student governance groups prior to the final decision. Please make suggestions to any member of the Senate Executive Committee no later than Friday, April 1. The committee will pass on what we determine to be the faculty consensus.

"A word to the wise: Internal Auditing is conducting spot inventories of software installed in university computers, including PCs in faculty offices, classrooms, and labs. The concern is prompted by high-dollar copyright infringement suits against several universities found to have unlicensed software in use. Provost Kimpel 'suggested' at a recent meeting that individuals might wish to check their own machines prior to a visit from our friendly neighborhood IA folks.

"There is at least one bright spot in a time of minimal salary increases: virtually no change in health care premiums. The Blue Cross/Blue Shield Managed Care and Limited Care plans and HealthSource will stay the same for the next fiscal year. PruCare will increase slightly. Dental care goes up: slightly for the basic plan but as much as 28% for the family coverage alternate plan. (A non-dentist's guess would be high claims caused by teeth-gnashing over the budget situation.) AD&D and long-term disability remain the same, and supplemental and dependent life insurance go up a small fraction. An optional coverage for long-term care will likely be offered in the coming year. Personnel Services, which negotiates insurance matters, calls it a good plan; more details will be forthcoming.

"In other money matters, short- and long-term, there is still no resolution to the retirement 'crisis.' The actuarial study funded by OU and OSU for the legislature has been studied by university officers and others (such as the Faculty Welfare Committee) and found wanting. Basically, the 'buyout' proposed by the study is seen to be exorbitant and, basically, unaffordable. The concurrent consultant study paid for by OU is not quite complete but should be out within a month. In any case, nothing happens without the concurrence of the state legislature, which is anything but assured. Several so-called 'shell bills' dealing with retirement issues have been filed and await the filling-in of details of a settlement, if and when such an agreement can be reached. President Van Horn and others remain 'guardedly optimistic' that a workable compromise will result.

"Retirement and other issues, such as prospects for a 'Higher Education Bill 1017,' have been overshadowed recently by what might be characterized as a fit of 'comprehensive university bashing.' One can hardly miss the well-publicized attacks on everything from faculty workloads to fee waivers to graduate teaching assistants (and some issues overlap). Faculty workloads in particular seem to generate the most heat, usually through invidious, misleading comparisons between OU and OSU and non-comprehensive, non-research institutions in the state system.

"The Senate Executive Committee has devoted a great deal of time to assembling objective information on the true nature of faculty work at OU. The office of Institutional Research and the office of Public Affairs have supplied both material and assistance which will shortly be part of a pocket-sized fact sheet provided to all legislators, to participants in the Senate-sponsored Speakers Service and to anyone who is in a position to bend the ear of lawmakers and voters. The 'quick reference' format was suggested by one of our legislative partisans in a meeting earlier this year. Senate Secretary Pat Weaver-Meyers has pulled together a wealth of facts in easily digested form which we hope will assist in getting our message across.

"This in no way eases the burden of each senator, each faculty member to personally make the case at any opportunity. It is also, obviously, an invitation to pass on any ideas, examples, observations that can be incorporated into what has become a very important public information effort. We do the work; it becomes a part of our jobs to tell the story."

EQUITY IN FACULTY SALARY INCREASES

Prof. Brent Gordon, Chair of the Senate's Committee on Faculty Compensation, reported on the progress made on the issue raised at last month's meeting (see 2/94 Journal, page 7) concerning equity in faculty salary increases. He sent a letter (available from the Senate office) to the deans and college committees A asking about the criteria by which units are evaluated. He said he tried to formulate the issue as a campus-wide concern. He described the wide range of responses received so far and said he would report back at the April 11 meeting.

PUBLICATION OF RESEARCH REPORT

Prof. Hinson reported that he had asked for information from the Research Administration office regarding the recent Biennial Report on Research at the University of Oklahoma, as he was directed to do at the February Senate meeting (see 2/94 Journal, page 9). Dr. Eddie Smith, Vice President for Research, responded to the letter, saying the report was authorized by former Vice President Daniel O'Neil, was paid for out of non-state funds, and was intended to attract external research dollars; therefore, the research areas selected were because OU had strengths and expertise in those areas. (The correspondence is available from the Senate office.)

Prof. Loving said this produced more conflicting information and did not answer the question of where the money came from. That money could have been used for something more appropriate to the mission of the university. Mr. Omar Gallaga, student reporter for the Oklahoma Daily, said he was told that the money came from private donations outside the university. Prof. Mock said he had some sympathy for the fact that this was authorized by former Vice President O'Neil. Prof. Roegiers said the Research Council had asked Dr. O'Neil about this issue and was told the money came from private sources. Prof. Gordon said that did not address the question of whether this was a responsible spending of the money; on the other hand, it is not clear what there is to do about it. Prof. Weaver-Meyers said another question is whether the publication accomplished what it was supposed to: increase sponsored funding.

Prof. Genova commented that the fine arts and humanities faculty felt completely cut out of the publication and were left with the impression that there are no strengths or expertise in those areas. Prof. Hinson asked the senators whether there was some action the Faculty Senate should take. Prof. Loving responded that the Senate could ask for further clarification. Prof. Roegiers pointed out that the publication expense did not come out of the university research budget and the report was authorized by Dr. O'Neil, who is no longer here. Prof. Friedrich said he did not think there was any point in sending a second letter. Prof. Loving retorted that the Faculty Senate ought to stand up for itself. Prof. Tiab asked whether this was the issue on which the Senate should take a stand. Prof. Havener said, at this point, there is nothing to be gained by pursuing this further. Dr. O'Neil is gone, and this is not the issue worth making a stand over. Prof. Loving said it was not a question of making a stand but rather demanding accountability. Prof. Sullivan said everyone in the room would have a different opinion about various issues. While the report probably cost too much money, the university does have to do things to market itself and to present itself in a better light to the public. Prof. Roegiers asked Prof. Loving, "What else do you want to know: the donors' names?" Prof. Loving

said he was not interested in donors' names but did want information that was more precise than that based on someone's recollection. Saying this was wasting everyone's time, Prof. Johnson moved to table the issue. The motion to table was approved on a voice vote with one dissenting vote.

PUBLICATION OF COURSE EVALUATIONS

Prof. Hinson said he and Prof. Boyd (Chair-elect) had met with Student Congress Chair David Kendrick to develop a compromise proposal concerning publication of course evaluations (see Appendix I). Mr. Kendrick said this issue had been discussed for several years. Last year's UOSA committee had proposed that the publication of evaluations would be voluntary, a release form would have to be signed, and five questions would be chosen by college (see 1/93 Journal, page 7, and 4/93 Journal, page 11). In the recent discussions, it was decided that the five questions would be chosen at the departmental level so that faculty would have more input on the questions on which they would be evaluated. UOSA would have to get written consent from each faculty member to publish those five questions. A sunset clause was added so that in three years an evaluation committee will decide whether to continue the program. The reasoning behind the latest proposal is to benefit the students, but also to protect the faculty. At many universities, student governments conduct their own evaluations outside of class.

Prof. Friedrich said he had been signing a form for many years indicating that students could publish the results of his evaluation. Mr. Kendrick said the evaluations had not been made available to students. Prof. Wiegand speculated that the College of Arts and Sciences was the only college with a consent form currently. Mr. Kendrick said the university position has been that the students had to have specifically approved forms signed individually by faculty. Prof. Tepker asked what form the published evaluations would take. Mr. Kendrick answered that only numbers would be published, not comments. Prof. Holmes asked whether the five questions would be selected from the questions on the current forms. Mr. Kendrick said that was correct. He pointed out that each college has a different form. Prof. Wiegand noted that the proposal says each faculty member must provide written consent for their evaluation to be published. She asked whether a faculty member's evaluation could still be made available even if that faculty member did not consent to it being published. Mr. Kendrick said no evaluation would be released to the students unless a consent form had been signed.

Prof. Genova commented that students are trying to find out the good teachers and courses. Some schools use composite scores and group teachers above a certain cut off point into categories such as excellent or exceptional, a process that makes faculty feel less threatened. Mr. Kendrick said the students wanted to have a process that was easy and inexpensive. Prof. Fiedler asked whether there would be some indication that a faculty member did not give consent. Mr. Kendrick said there would be some indication that the information was not available or the course would not be listed at all. Prof. Holmes pointed out that, currently, evaluations are not usually available until the sixth week of the following semester. Mr. Kendrick acknowledged that the results would run a semester behind.

Prof. Faulconer asked whether any additional explanatory information would be provided, such as whether a course was required for a certain degree and whether just one section was offered. Mr. Kendrick pointed out that any course could be taken by any student as an elective. He added that publishing costs would probably be too high to include a lot of extra information. Prof. Weaver-Meyers suggested that the results be grouped by required courses and elective courses; otherwise the results could be skewed. Mr. Kendrick said that was possible. Prof. Mock said one of the current evaluation questions is whether the course was taken as an elective, and that question could be selected by the department. Mr. Towns noted that most students want to know which courses will require more study time so they will know when to schedule them.

In discussing what procedure to follow, Prof. Mock asked whether the Senate could recommend that the Arts and Sciences evaluations that have faculty permission be made available to the students. Prof. Hinson explained that the current Arts and Sciences consent form gives permission to publish all the questions plus the comments on the back, and that has limited the number of people consenting. The new proposal would restrict the questions that could be used. Prof. Mock pointed out that the students had not been given access to the previous results, and the Faculty Senate could try to remove that block. Prof. Loving moved that the Faculty Senate endorse the student resolution and direct the administration to release the previous evaluations. The motion was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

LIBRARY BUDGET

Prof. Hill called attention to the Provost's response to his letter concerning the library budget problems (available from the Senate office). He said the library budget is a crisis that affects what the university will be. He had hoped for a more positive response from the Provost. His assumption is that no unit has enough journals. Any kind of re-distribution scheme that depends on quality criteria will result in a furtherance of the problem of journals going from the social sciences to the sciences.


Prof. Sutton said he had learned that a vendor (EBSCO) is hired to purchase particular journals for the university and marks many journals up by at least 10%. Furthermore, EBSCO sponsored a social function at a library conference recently that he considers a conflict of interest. Prof. Weaver-Meyers explained that vendors are usually hired to get better subscription prices. The rates shown now are projected prices for next year, which are based on a projected 10% inflation rate. The vendor, who is chosen through a bid process, can give a general overall discount. Publishers and vendors regularly sponsor receptions and dinners at conferences. Prof. Sutton said the College of Engineering requires faculty to sign forms indicating that that is a conflict of interest.

Prof. Sankowski said he views the issues as whether there is a balance between areas, how "quality" is defined, and who is represented in the process. He pointed out that journals are used for teaching purposes as well as for research purposes. Prof. Whitecotton said the central issue is that the hard sciences are making the decisions. Those programs chosen for larger cuts will forever be relegated to low status and can never catch up. Prof. Hinson asked Prof. Hill if he had a specific proposal to recommend.

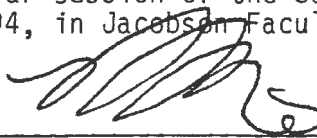
Prof. Hill moved that the Faculty Senate Chair or Executive Committee appoint a task force on the library crisis and the future of the university and report back to the Senate in May. He suggested that distinguished people like named chairs and former Senate chairs be appointed to this committee. Prof. Loving offered a friendly amendment to include untenured faculty. Prof. Hill stressed the importance of including senior faculty who have an institutional memory. Prof. Holmes said he assumed that meant Prof. Hill did not accept the friendly amendment. Prof. Hill's original motion was approved on a voice vote with one dissenting vote.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m. The next regular session of the Senate will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, April 11, 1994, in Jacobson Faculty Hall 102.



Sonya Fallgatter
Administrative Coordinator



Patricia Weaver-Meyers
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STUDENT CONGRESS
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION LI, FEBRUARY 22, 1994

3/94 (Appendix I)

CONGRESSIONAL BILL NO.

Title: ANOTHER RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COURSE EVALUATIONS:

Whereas: Published course evaluations will assist the students of the University of Oklahoma in making informed decisions about enrollment; and,

Whereas: Published course evaluations will positively effect the Add/Drop process; and,

Whereas: Published course evaluations will provide important feedback to the students; and,

LET IT THEREFORE BE RESOLVED THAT:

The University of Oklahoma Student Association recommends adoption of the following policy:

Section 1: The course evaluations shall consist of five questions selected from each academic college's faculty evaluations. Each department shall have the option of choosing the five questions that its faculty members will be presented with.

Section 2: UOSA shall be responsible for requesting the results of the said five questions from each faculty member for the purpose of publication.

Section 3: Each faculty member must provide written consent for their evaluation to be published.

Section 4: Upon acceptance, this course evaluation program shall be instituted. This program shall be pursued for 3 years, at the end of which the program will be evaluated by a committee consisting of 3 faculty members to be appointed by the Faculty Senate, the UOSA President, the chair of the Undergraduate Congress Academic Affairs Committee and the chair of the Graduate Student Senate Academic Affairs committee. The evaluation committee shall take any or all of the following into consideration; student use, faculty participation, effects on enrollment, results of any student or faculty surveys, etc. Based upon the evaluation, the committee may recommend that the course evaluation program either be eliminated or continues (with or without changes).

Section 5: All resolutions in conflict with this one are hereby rescinded.

Section 6: Copies shall be sent to:

Dr. Richard L. Van Horn, President, University of Oklahoma
Dr. Roland Smith, Vice President for Student Affairs
Dr. James P. Kimpel, Senior Vice President and Provost
Dr. Richard Hall, Dean of Students
Ms. Marilyn Connor, Director of Student Development
Mr. Bruce Hinson, Faculty Senate Chair
Mr. David Kendrick, UOSA President
Mr. Steve Stice, Graduate Student Senate Chair
Mr. Marshall Smith, Chair of Student Congress

Author of the Bill: David Kendrick, David Dietert and Cody Towns

Submitted on a motion by: Wroblewski

Action taken by Congress: Passed, 34-0-2

Verified by Chair of Congress: Marshall Smith Date: 2-23-94

Approved by UOSA President: David Kendrick Date: 2-24-94