

JOURNAL OF THE FACULTY SENATE
 The University of Oklahoma (Norman campus)
 Regular session - January 10, 1994 - 3:30 p.m.
 Jacobson Faculty Hall 102

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

PRESENT: Barman, Boyd, Cornelius, R.C. Davis, Dillon, Faulconer, Fiedler, Fonteneau, Friedrich, Genova, Gordon, Gutierrez, Harper, Havener, L. Hill, Hinson, Johnson, Jordan, Kincade, Koger, Kukreti, Lakshmivarahan, Landes, Latrobe, London, Loving, R. Miller, Mock, D. Morgan, Mouser, Ogilvie, Pailes, Rhodes, Roegiers, Sankowski, Schubert, Stock, Sullivan, Sutton, Tepker, Tiab, Van Gundy, Watson, Weaver-Meyers, Weinel, Whitecotton, Wiegand

Provost's office representative: Kimpel, Ravindran
 PSA representatives: Barth, Spencer, Streller
 UOSA representatives: Magana, Moon, Smith

ABSENT: Anderson, Badiru, Holmes, Reeder

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APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

The Senate Journal for the regular session of December 13, 1993, was approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New members of the Faculty Senate as of January 1994, completing 1992-95 terms:

Replacing Prof. Jud Ahern (Geology & Geophysics): Prof. Brian Fiedler (Meteorology), College of Geosciences.

Replacing Prof. Kenneth Wedel (Social Work): Prof. Bill Loving (Journalism & Mass Communication), College of Arts and Sciences.

Replacing Prof. David Miller (History): Prof. Andy Van Gundy (Communication), College of Arts and Sciences.

The strategic plan is available in the Faculty Senate office.

The 1992-93 Student Opinion Survey results and the report of the survey of Faculty Attitudes Toward Budgetary Problems, Undergraduate Teaching and Research/Scholarship are available in the Faculty Senate office. The faculty attitudes report is based on the questionnaire Prof. Ken Hoving circulated last spring and will be useful in planning this year's and next year's Senate agenda.

Prof. Art Johnson (Chemistry and Biochemistry) has been nominated as faculty representative on the OU Research Corporation Board.

The Executive Committee nominated Professors Davis Egle (AME), Luis Cortest (MLL&L) and Connie Dillon (Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) for an ad hoc committee to review the selection, functions, responsibilities, and accountability of deans, analogous to the recent revisions in the role of departmental chairs. Other members of the committee will be named by the Provost.

Attached as Appendix I is Vice President Jerry Farley's response to the list of faculty issues and concerns identified by the Faculty Senate (see 10/93 Journal, pages 2 and 5).

SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT, by Prof. Bruce Hinson

"While our more clever colleagues were off pursuing recently discovered vital research in warmer climates, there was some activity around here. The chairman of the board of regents responded to the letter from the executive committee which this body endorsed at the December meeting. Chairman Gullatt stands by the board's interpretation of the rules on composition of the presidential search committee. That is of course the board's prerogative. The positive side of Mr. Gullatt's letter, however, was his expressed willingness to meet with us, singly or in small groups, to improve communication. The executive committee will pursue this opportunity, and we will call on several of you who have expressed an interest in this less formal approach to solving problems.

"We have also received some appreciative responses to the senate's resolution on endowed chairs and professorships, including one from Chancellor Hans Brisch. We can claim, but not prove, that our resolution is behind a current proposal for a similar joint resolution by the regents of OU and OSU. The joint board meeting is scheduled for 25 and 26 January in Oklahoma City.

"The faculty members of the new committee to evaluate the role of deans are named in the announcements section of your agenda. Other members will be appointed by the provost, and the hope is to have some report and/or recommendations by the end of the spring semester. At the risk of putting words in these members' mouths, I'm sure they would appreciate suggestions from members of the Senate about roles and responsibilities of deans that can be studied by that group. We all will also have a direct say about

individual deans this semester. The Provost has called for a faculty-wide canvass as part of the periodic evaluation process. The last one was done in the Spring of 1992. Please give your responses thoughtful attention.

"In just a few minutes we will get a legislative perspective on the coming year. This university's legislative agenda is familiar to most of us by now. Priority number one is a resolution of the retirement dilemma. Months of negotiation have finally produced an agreement to fund an interim study by a non-governmental actuarial firm on the effects of several different proposals on OTRS. This is a hopeful sign for two reasons: we will all presumably be talking from the same set of assumptions and numbers, and even this modest step was flatly rejected by part of the legislative leadership just last Spring. So as we said in my former business, 'Stay tuned...'

"One other important issue which may have slipped by beneath our level of awareness is a set of rules proposed by the state ethics commission which would affect a large portion of our faculty. The most significant proposals involve financial reporting rules for state employees, which we are by the commission's definition, imposed on the basis of salary level, not on job duties. The view of most education groups is that these proposals, while well-intentioned, would be burdensome at best and intrusive at worst. The senate office has the text of the rules, the text of amendments being proposed by other groups, and the information on whom to contact with comments or suggestions. I would encourage you to look it over, because if passed, rules, like the poor, are always with us."

ELECTION, FACULTY WELFARE COMMITTEE

The Senate approved the Senate Executive Committee's nomination of Prof. Kenneth Taylor (History of Science) to complete the 1991-94 term of Prof. Kenneth Wedel (Social Work) on the Faculty Senate Committee on Faculty Welfare (Senate standing committee).

INVESTIGATION DOCUMENTS

Prof. Loving announced that he had received over 470 pages of documents related to the investigation of administrative affairs, food services, Sooner House, and the golf course. He said the documents are now public, and anyone is welcome to look at them.

REMARKS BY STATE LEGISLATORS

The following state legislators were invited to make remarks on the major problems and prospects for the state, economy and higher education. Prof. Hinson said they would discuss what is coming up in this legislative session, particularly with regard to higher education.

Representative Laura Boyd, District 44
 Representative Ed Crocker, District 45
 Representative Danny Hilliard, District 22
 Senator Cal Hobson, District 16
 Senator Bernice Shedrick, District 21

Representative Danny Hilliard, chair of the House higher education committee, served on the General Conference Committee on Appropriations which wrote the budget for fiscal year 1994. The \$556.4 million appropriated to higher education (including one-time money) represented a

decrease of 3.3% but was offset by a tuition increase. For FY95 the amount certified appears to be down by about \$25 million from what was expected. The State Regents asked for \$87.5 million in new money. Representative Hilliard sees no hint of a tuition increase. Nevertheless, he is optimistic about what the legislature can do for higher education this session. He pointed out that, fortunately, the Oklahoma Constitution does not allow the legislature to tinker with academic standards. He said he is committed to an increase in funding for higher education for FY95.

Representative Laura Boyd, who is on the education committee, said she is glad that the faculty will be looking at the proposed ethics rules. She complimented the Faculty Senate on its resolution about endowed chairs, saying it was a good example of ways the faculty can be involved with the legislature. Encouraging the faculty to communicate items of concern directly to her, she said she does not hear from the faculty as regularly or consistently as she does from the administration. Some upcoming items of interest to higher education will involve administrative issues like per diem. Another issue is whether Representative Leonard Sullivan will try to do away with the endowed chairs program. The budget will be a big item. The governor has stated his commitment to higher education. In the past, he has not given legislators the support they needed on that. She is monitoring the issues related to the Oklahoma Teachers' Retirement System. She said voters and legislators need to hear good messages about the university, for example the number of scholars and that OU is one of 32 flagship universities nationally. She urged the faculty, through community activities, to do some public relations work, because that makes it much easier for legislators to get support for higher education funding. In this legislative session a lot of time will be spent on health care, juvenile justice, ethics laws, impeachment resolutions, and the budget.

Senator Cal Hobson said this will be his sixteenth session. (Two of the committees on which Senator Hobson serves are criminal jurisprudence and education.) This is the first time he has been invited to the entire Faculty Senate before the session starts in order to talk about joint efforts. The governor is very optimistic about the budget and thinks \$68 million can be found to address the juvenile justice problem. The second fastest growing allocation in the state budget in the 1980s was to corrections (about 9%), whereas higher education only received about 2%. Oklahoma is third in the nation in the rate of incarceration. He said he hoped faculty would come out against the effort to repeal last year's law that caps the number incarcerated. The real budget numbers will not be available until late May. However, the legislature already faces a \$35 million problem related to the tax credit for federal retirees.

Representative Ed Crocker said he does not share the governor's optimism on how much money will be available. He supports re-prioritizing in general, but said specifics are more difficult. He serves on the revenue and taxation committee. Under State Question 640, it is not possible to have rate increases. One way to generate revenue is to broaden the tax base. Representative Crocker participated in efforts to give higher education the lion's share of the pie the last three years. He said the legislature has done as much as it could to give what was available in resources to higher education, citing as an example the capital bond issue. After inflation, the net increase to higher education in the last ten years has been 15-20%. In contrast, mental health has been cut by about 15-20%. While higher education and common education are the foundation stones upon which the future of the state depends, there are other areas of government that are also important.

Senator Bernice Shedrick, who chairs the Senate education committee, mentioned that there may be some resolutions on which to act with regard to impeaching the governor. If that happens, the Senate will be the jury. According to the Oklahoma Constitution, there are about five crimes that are impeachable, but they have to be committed while in office. The equalization board recently certified the amount of money available to the legislature. About \$35-40 million will have to be given to federal retirees as a result of the lawsuit the state lost. The state has a little more than \$90 million in the rainy day fund. The governor appears willing to use those funds this session, but Senator Shedrick reminded the group that the funds really are for emergency situations. Most of the money drawn from the rainy day fund in the past two to three years went toward one-time education expenditures. Many legislators look at the dollars put into education as a long-term investment. Educators need to educate everyone about the importance of investing in education and to share what they are doing. OU is doing a remarkable job in recruiting faculty and students and in research projects. It is difficult to represent major universities at the legislature. Legislators representing university districts only have a fraction of the votes and, in tight budgets, people do not understand the need for programs like endowed chairs. Faculty should suggest ideas for the legislature to consider. The percentage allocated to higher education has dwindled, but sometimes money has to be shifted to other immediate needs. At the same time, the legislature increased tuition so that the total for higher education would remain stable. She said it is important to show the people of the state that their money is being invested wisely.

During the question and answer session, Prof. Sutton noted that in Georgia the lottery money is used to provide free tuition for students to go to votech or college. Senator Shedrick said a lottery is probably not going to pass the Oklahoma legislature, but it could happen on a written petition. Senator Hobson explained that when Governor Walters first proposed the lottery, the revenue was earmarked for higher education, but now the governor is talking about using part of the money for juvenile justice programs.

Prof. Friedrich asked whether anything could be done to increase revenue (like tuition, taxes and fees), given it is an election year. Senator Shedrick said it does not look like the Senate would vote for a tuition increase. Restructuring the tax code has been under consideration for a long time, but that would be opposed by farmers' groups. If impeachment comes up, there probably will not be enough time to address that issue. Representative Boyd said any increase in revenue will be a long process. Representative Crocker pointed out that with SQ 640, the legislature has no choice on how to deal with funding, since the budget must be balanced every year.

Prof. Johnson said there has been some talk that part of the lottery money would be used to establish a comprehensive research university in Tulsa, which he sees as anti-productive in view of the funding problems. Senator Shedrick said the Senate leadership does not believe there should be another comprehensive university; however, some higher education needs in Tulsa are not being met. She believes there should be more cooperative research efforts. Prof. Johnson said the implication is there should be more efficiency in higher education and the system should not be expanded. Senator Shedrick pointed out that nine of the forty-eight senators come from the Tulsa area. Representative Boyd said she is concerned that people think the lottery will fix things. If money from the lottery is earmarked for education, funding from the state for higher education could drop off.

Prof. Roegiers noted that OCAST has been a successful venture in terms of the return on investment, yet its budget has been eroding. Senator Shedrick explained that OCAST took the same amount of cut as other agencies. In the second year, some money was borrowed from OCAST, but that was replaced. With regard to the appropriation for next year, OCAST will be scrutinized the same as everything else. OCAST was initiated because the legislature was concerned that research was not receiving enough funding. Legislators want to see results and will do all they can to keep their commitment. All forms of government have been reduced from 29% of the budget to 20%. Senator Hobson said because of SQ 640, legislators are finding creative ways to raise money through fees and fines.

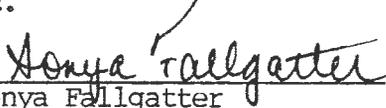
Senator Shedrick announced that the Senate chamber was recently restored to its original condition. She encouraged everyone to visit the Capitol and take pride in their heritage.

Prof. Loving asked whether there would be any pressure for Tulsa to create its own institution if OU offers fewer classes at UCT. Senator Shedrick said the trustees at UCT contract with the four universities about course offerings. If none of the four offered a particular course, there could be pressure to create a university at Tulsa. Prof. Loving also wanted to know if there were ways that people from the universities could be incorporated into legislative activities in order to give academics more visibility. Senator Shedrick said the educational community as well as business men and women should be involved in getting the message out.

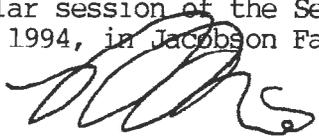
Prof. Hinson encouraged the faculty to interact further with the legislators at the reception following the meeting.

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, February 14, 1994, in Jacobson Faculty Hall 102.



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VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bruce H. Hinson, Chair
Norman Campus Faculty Senate

FROM: Jerry B. Farley
Vice President for Administrative Affairs

SUBJECT: Faculty Senate Concerns

DATE: November 30, 1993

We have reviewed the Faculty Issues and Concerns and would like to comment on several of the issues that pertain to the Administrative Affairs areas.

5. Lack of travel advance program

Some Universities use their foundation to provide travel advances. We have contacted the OU Foundation and will be sending an outline for their consideration.

8. Lack of support services for junior faculty; excessive time devoted to clerical work.

The Information Processing Center furnishes free clerical support for faculty and may be of some assistance in supporting junior faculty.

14. Changes in retirement; confusion/lack of specific information.

Arva Peters and Don Fiegal have met with faculty groups to summarize the changes and explain their impact. Ruth McKinnis attended a meeting of the Faculty Welfare Committee to address these issues. Personnel continues to work with Trent Gabert and Bart Wart particularly on the issues.

Foster Higgins is doing a consultant project. Governance representatives were involved in selecting the consultant and are now actively participating on the project team.

15. Confusion over managed care health plan; excessive paperwork; elimination of OU Care.

While Personnel Services has received numerous complaints about managed care, most are being resolved as faculty and staff learn to use the system. A large segment of orientation update was devoted to that topic recently. While the program was advertised by personally labeled flyers to each faculty and staff member, only about 15 people other than presenters came. Earlier sessions were better attended, so we believe the confusion is lessening. Employees may select Goddard Health Center as their primary care physician to continue using that facility and those physicians. They do not have to choose a specific GHC doctor.

Bruce H. Hinson, Chair
November 30, 1993
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19. Rising fees on courses, masking actual cost of attending OU.

We are currently working on an average cost comparison. This comparison will take a typical 15 credit hour undergraduate load for a resident student in each college using current tuition and fee levels and special course fees compared to the proposed new fees.

24. The Golf Course

The University is negotiating with Metro Golf, the second ranked firm by the selection committee, after Sunrise Golf failed to provide adequate proof of financial capability. The faculty will continue to receive discounted green fees.

I would be glad to discuss any of these issues in further detail with you or the Faculty Senate.

JBF:ch