

**JOURNAL OF THE FACULTY SENATE**  
 The University of Oklahoma (Norman campus)  
 Regular session - December 13, 1993 - 3:30 p.m.  
 Jacobson Faculty Hall 102

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

**PRESENT:** Anderson, Badiru, Barman, Boyd, R.C. Davis, Gordon, Harper, Havener, L. Hill, Hinson, Holmes, Johnson, Kincade, Kukreti, Landes, Latrobe, R. Miller, D. Morgan, Mouser, Ogilvie, Reeder, Rhodes, Roegiers, Sankowski, Schubert, Stock, Sullivan, Sutton, Tepker, Tiab, Watson, Weaver-Meyers, Wedel, Weinel, Whitecotton, Wiegand

PSA representatives: Marshall, Spencer, Streller, Vaughn  
 UOSA representatives: Smith

**ABSENT:** Ahern, Cornelius, Dillon, Faulconer, Fonteneau, Friedrich, Genova, Gutierrez, Jordan, Koger, Lakshmivarahan, London, D. Miller, Mock, Pailes

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**Announcements:**

- Parking plan steering committee.....1
- Spring 1994 schedule of Senate meetings.....1
- Faculty appointed to presidential search committee.....2
- Presentation by Public Affairs.....2
- Senate Chair's Report:**
- Retirement.....3
- HSC restructuring.....3
- Presidential search.....3
- January meeting, legislators.....3
- Letter, presidential search committee.....3
- Resolution, endowed chairs/professorships program.....5
- Election, committees.....6
- Field House.....6

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**APPROVAL OF JOURNAL**

The Senate Journal for the regular session of November 8, 1993, was approved.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Prof. Bruce Hinson, Faculty Senate Chair, will serve on the steering committee to update the parking master plan.

The regular meetings of the Faculty Senate for Spring 1994 will be held at 3:30 p.m. in Jacobson Faculty Hall 102 on the following Mondays:  
 January 10, February 14, March 14, April 11, and May 2.

The following faculty were selected for the Presidential Search Committee by the OU Regents from nominations submitted by the Faculty Senate (see 11/93 Journal, page 3):

Lynda Kaid (Communication), vice chair  
 Fred Lee (Electrical Engineering)  
 Rennard Strickland (Law)

#### **PRESENTATION BY THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Prof. Hinson explained that representatives from the Office of Public Affairs would explain how that office gets the University message out to the public and would highlight items of interest to faculty.

Ms. Catherine Bishop, Associate Vice President for Public Affairs, pointed out that Public Affairs used to be called Media Services. Public Affairs now reports directly to the President and is part of the decision-making process. Ms. Bishop said she is interested in conveying faculty concerns to the administration. A packet of information about Public Affairs was distributed explaining how that office can achieve national visibility for faculty and the university. Public Affairs is composed of Electronic Media and Photographic Services, News Services, Publications, and Special Events.

Mr. Dave Smeal, Director of Electronic Media and Photographic Services, showed a video about the solar car project of the College of Engineering as an example of the pieces he sends to television stations. Mr. Smeal asked the faculty for ideas for feature stories to send to t.v. and radio stations and for still photos. He invited new faculty to have a portrait made and provide a biographical sketch for the files.

Ms. Jerri Culpepper, Director of News Services, explained that this area is responsible for compiling an expert's list that can be furnished to the media. Ms. Culpepper said News Services is particularly interested in science features and promotes faculty research by sending out tip sheets to people like science teachers. OU Update is a bi-monthly newsletter published by News Services for faculty and staff on all three campuses. News items are needed for that publication as well as the OU Today radio program.

As Director of Publications, Mr. Bill Williams, helps offices write, edit, and design publications for a nominal fee; consulting services are free. Mr. Williams can help new faculty prepare letterhead and business cards.

The Director of Special Events, Ms. Becky Heeney, said her area has two primary responsibilities that impact faculty: commencement and the Speakers Service. Commencement will be held May 7 at 2:30 in the Lloyd Noble Center. The Speakers Service is a voluntary effort on the part of faculty and staff. Requests for speakers come from groups throughout Oklahoma, who are very appreciative of the time the speakers spend. It is a good way to tell the people of the state more about the research done at OU. She encouraged faculty to be a part of the program when the call for speakers goes out next spring. This office also helps departments schedule events.

**SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT, by Prof. Bruce Hinson**

"In the spirit of the season, my gift to you is a short chair's report. It consists primarily of updates on a number of continuing issues. On retirement, the pendulum has swung back to cautious optimism regarding an agreement to allow some options to the mandatory participation in Oklahoma Teachers' Retirement System. The legislative session has, of course, not begun, and it promises to be occupied by more dramatic issues than our retirement, but it now appears that the key members understand and appreciate our concerns and can see some alternatives. The consulting firm hired by OU to evaluate the present programs and recommend a comprehensive plan is due to report on January 21. The report will be available to the senate as soon as possible after that date.

"The proposal to separate or realign or reorganize the relationship of the Norman campus and Health Sciences Center has slowed to a more deliberate pace. The regents have scheduled a special meeting for December 21 to select a consulting firm to study the university's administrative structure and make recommendations for improvement before any changes, if any, are made. This is not meant to be the sweeping and controversial survey that rattled OSU this year; the focus is more narrow and no targets have been set, other than a reporting date in mid-March.

"At the same meeting, it is likely that the regents will consider hiring an executive search firm to assist the presidential search committee. The search and the HSC study are obviously related. Presumably, we need to be able to tell a prospective president just what he or she will be president of.

"And finally, a reminder that we have invited several key legislators to our January meeting. It is the first day of classes in the spring semester, but we hope you will make every effort to attend both to get first-hand information on prospects for higher education issues and to offer suggestions to the legislators. They are eager to meet with us, and it could be a most productive session."

**LETTER CONCERNING PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE**

The Senate Executive Committee proposed that the letter below be sent individually to the members of the OU Board of Regents. Prof. Hinson said this was more of an informational item. Prof. Boyd, Chair-Elect, commented that the regents know there is concern--a resolution was sent to them last month--however, the Executive Committee believed it was necessary to convey again the faculty displeasure about the composition of the presidential search committee. Highlighting the fourth paragraph, he said several words were suggested for "strongly urges," but the committee opted for language that was commensurate with the power faculty had to back it up. In the last paragraph, the intent was to be pro-active and enhance communication. Prof. Boyd explained that the letter would be from the Executive Committee, but senators could suggest wording changes since it should reflect Faculty Senate sentiment. Prof. Weinel suggested that in the fifth paragraph the word "trained" be changed to "educated" and in the third paragraph "at odds" be changed to "disaffected."

Prof. Landes asked whether a letter was all that could be done. He noted that the regents have the power to change the rules, but as long as the rules are unchanged, the regents should follow them. He asked what legal options were available. Prof. Wiegand said the regents could be sued for violating the state administrative procedures act which says such a board must place the public on notice before changing its policies. The Executive Committee was not sure the faculty as a whole would favor such a drastic

action or that a lawsuit would accomplish what they hoped to. The proposed letter represents a compromise. Prof. Wiegand noted that the Faculty Handbook is not helpful on this issue. Suing is a long, expensive process that faculty may not win. Prof. Weinel asked whether this general question had come up in other states. Prof. Wiegand said she had not extensively researched this issue. Prof. Weaver-Meyers said the Executive Committee was not convinced that everything had been done prior to exacerbating an adversarial situation. She said she would like to get the regents to work more with the faculty. There is time to be adversarial later on.

Prof. Davis suggested that Prof. Wiegand's information be shared with the regents as an indication of how far they have gone astray from the rules. The regents could be told there is a basis in law for a remedy, but that we do not want to be confrontational. Prof. Sutton pointed out that a lot of the regents are involved with small businesses and are not used to dealing with academicians. A lawsuit would make them even more threatened. Prof. Hinson said that information could be shared with them face-to-face. Prof. Tepker said a lawsuit would not go to the real problem. The regents are businessmen who regard faculty as employees. Faculty should be portrayed as front line supervisors to dispel the notion that more faculty involvement is akin to "turning the asylum over to the inmates." Prof. Boyd suggested that this managerial aspect could be added to the fifth paragraph.

Prof. Weinel asked whether the regents had responded to the resolution approved at last month's Senate meeting. Prof. Hinson said they had not. Prof. Weinel said the real issue, which is addressed in the letter, is the regents' attitude toward faculty. A lawsuit seems like an overreaction.

There was some discussion about the kinds of initiatives that could be taken with the regents (referring to the last paragraph of the letter). Prof. Weinel commented that the regents see the university as a business. Prof. Hinson said that is why the Executive Committee took this approach (a letter) instead of a resolution. It says, "Let's talk about it." Prof. Davis suggested that the regents be asked about their intention with regard to the rules. Prof. Hinson said the plan was to talk to a couple of regents at a time so it becomes less of a meeting.

Prof. Hinson reminded the Senate that this was not an action item. As revised, the letter reads (deletions crossed through; additions underlined):

University faculty members continue to express dismay and concern over the composition of the presidential search committee. As representatives of the faculty, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee wishes to convey to you the faculty's ongoing concern. Since the choice of a president is the single most important decision the Regents make, it is paramount that it be made with the fullest possible concurrence of the faculty.

Further research into the history of the 1983 policy on search committees reveals that the intent of the policy was to insure a majority of faculty on the committee. The reasoning behind the policy lay in the assumption that a successful president must enjoy strong support of the faculty and that the importance of academic programs requires faculty representation in selecting the leader of those programs. Since the policy was established, there has been a steady erosion of it. The Horton search committee was composed of a faculty majority. The Van Horn committee, however, had only an equal number of faculty members. In the current search, the faculty is actually a

minority. The declining role of the faculty is as evident as it is contrary to established policy.

The current misinterpretation of the policy, however unintended, has caused serious disturbance among the faculty and will not easily be repaired. Faculty ~~at-odds~~ who are disaffected with the process may have far reaching adverse effects, as disenfranchised faculty communicate with peers at other institutions around the country. Attractive candidates for the presidency may well be deterred from joining the university.

Although we recognize that the new search committee is now in place, we strongly urge you to expand the membership to include a majority of faculty. This gesture will assure the faculty of your good faith and will contribute markedly to a more successful search.

The faculty of the university represent some of the best ~~trained~~ educated and most able people in the state. They are trained for and hold management and supervisory positions, and they want to make a significant contribution to the state. The first priority in doing this is to create the best university possible. In this spirit, we urge you to enlist the faculty more decisively in determining the future course of the university.

Further, we want our participation with you to extend beyond the selection of a new president. To achieve this end, we seek more and better communication with you. You make many important decisions that affect the university. We are the ones who do the work and have an intimate understanding of the educational process. This is sufficient reason for improving communication between you and us.

To improve our interaction with you, we will be making suggestions in the near future. For now, we begin with an invitation of representatives from the board to meet with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee early in 1994. We will look forward to working out details for that meeting.

#### **RESOLUTION REGARDING ENDOWED CHAIRS/PROFESSORSHIPS PROGRAM**

The Senate Executive Committee recommended that the resolution below be sent to the members of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and to key legislators. Prof. Hinson said this resolution was in direct response to a suggestion of Representative Laura Boyd. She sees problems with the future of the program, given the funding problems and political fallout from the Hill professorship.

Prof. Wiegand noted that the number of endowed chairs and professorships should be changed from 79 to 84. Prof. Havener said it might be valuable to refer to the benefits to students. Prof. Hinson said something could be added to paragraph three where retention is mentioned. Prof. Havener asked that the last part of the third paragraph be changed to read: "finest students and faculty members." Prof. Harper suggested that "academic" be changed to "teaching" in the fifth paragraph. Prof. Weaver-Meyers proposed that the fourth paragraph be revised to read: "benefits to the university and the state."

The Senate adopted, without dissent, the revised resolution (deletions crossed through; additions underlined):

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma State Legislature and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education have made a financial commitment to the endowment of chairs and professorships in the state's universities; and

WHEREAS, this support has resulted in the establishment of 79 84 endowed chairs and professorships at the University of Oklahoma which qualify for matching funds under the endowment trust fund; and

WHEREAS, endowed chairs and professors bring the expertise of nationally and internationally known scholars and researchers to Oklahoma in areas of significance to the state and, in addition, enable the University of Oklahoma to attract and retain within this state many of the nation's finest students and faculty members; and

WHEREAS, endowed chairs and professors attract additional financial benefits to the University and the state because they secure private support from foundations, industry and individuals for faculty positions and also secure public and private support from the federal government, business and foundations for laboratories, computing resources and other research equipment; and

WHEREAS, endowed chairs and professors strengthen dramatically the University's academic teaching, research and service programs and help develop new knowledge through their research, scholarship and creative activity;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the University of Oklahoma faculty, through its representatives, the Faculty Senate, strongly urges the Oklahoma State Legislature and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to continue their support and financial commitment to the endowment of chairs and professorships in the state universities.

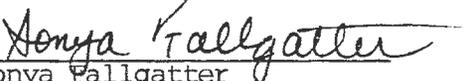
#### **ELECTION, COMMITTEES**

The Senate approved the Senate Executive Committee's nomination of Prof. Eleanor Weinel (Architecture) to complete the 1991-94 term of Prof. Paul Kleine (Educational Psychology) on the Faculty Senate Committee on Committees (Senate standing committee) and the Senate Committee on Committees' nomination of Prof. Carlotta Horrace (Educational Psychology) to complete the 1993-96 term of Prof. Michael Flanigan (English) on the Academic Programs Council.

#### **FIELD HOUSE**

Prof. Sutton announced that a meeting would be held Wednesday, December 15, at 1:00 p.m. in the Field House to discuss the proposal to close the Field House to faculty and staff for noontime recreational activities.

**ADJOURNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next regular session of the Senate will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, January 10, 1994, in Jacobson Faculty Hall 102.

  
Sonya Fallgatter  
Administrative Coordinator

  
Patricia Weaver-Meyers  
Secretary