



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

University Senate Consultative Committee
614 Social Sciences
267 19th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Telephone (612) 373-3226

SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

December 15, 1983

12:00 - 1:45

Regents Room

TENTATIVE AGENDA

1. Minutes of November 17 and December 1 (enclosed).
2. Report of the Student Co-Chair.
3. Report of the SCC Chair.
4. Report of the Finance Committee.
5. Reports from Regents' Meetings.
6. Discussion of Closed Meeting Principles.



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MINUTES
SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
December 15, 1983
12:55 - 2:00
Regents Room

Members present: Virginia Fredricks, Phyllis Freier, John Howe, Marvin Mattson, Lisa McDonnell, Jack Merwin, Irwin Rubenstein, Paul Schulte, Deon Stuthman, Burt Sundquist, John Turner.

Guests: Alice Edwards, Carol Pazandak, Dave Shope, Maureen Smith.

1. Minutes of December 1 and November 17. Professor Rubenstein submitted a correction to the December 1 minutes, in the first full paragraph of page 5. The minutes otherwise stand approved.

2. Report of the Student Co-chair. Mr. Schulte.

- SSCC has planned a retreat to consider fundamental governance questions.
- Weather and final exams kept several SCC members absent today.

3. Report of the Chair. Professor Howe.

- Professor Sundquist will be absent from the University and the committee on a single quarter leave this winter.

- The circulating file contains a letter from Professor Root, Chairperson of SCEP, to Dr. John Wallace regarding questions in which Educational Policy and the Task Force on the Undergraduate Experience have a mutual interest.

- Circulating file also includes a letter from Rick Heydinger to President Magrath listing the issues on which the Andersen Commission on Higher Education is likely to make recommendations when it reports later this winter. Mr. Heydinger has encouraged the SCC to discuss the issues and write letters if the committee wants to offer advice to the commission.

4. Report of the Senate Finance Committee. Professor Rubenstein.

At its December 1 meeting, SFC discussed graduate school tuition, the budget principles (which went to the Regents for action in December) and the legislative initiatives (due for Regential action in January).

A. Graduate tuition. SFC recognizes that the Graduate School is aware the tuition increase may cause problems. The Graduate School is monitoring

the implications of the change. They are not presently sure they will continue to follow the schedule laid out for future increases.

Thesis tuition credits. SFC recognizes these as a different way of accounting for the total cost of a graduate degree, and not a new cost.

Financial aid aspect. The Graduate School's literature will stress the net cost to the student.

Calculating the cost of graduate education. Professor Howe asked whether the Finance Committee is persuaded that the calculations can be accurate enough to determine the cost of educating graduate students. Professor Rubenstein mentioned some of the many indicators of the greater graduate education costs, such as the much more costly library resources and laboratory resources.

Professor Turner said that because a faculty member can log his/her time and then calculate the proportion of time spent on graduate education, the University has a means of computing the largest component (salary) of graduate education.

Professor Merwin raised the question of whether graduate and undergraduate faculty time should be counted equally or weighted, and what that choice of formula would say about the University's mission and aspirations for excellence.

Professors Howe and Stuthman urged that the Finance Committee pay attention to how the costs of graduate education are calculated, adding that the University needs to be confident that there is a defensible method of determining costs.

Professor Sundquist added that there are questions of appropriate valuing on the output as well as the input side of the equation.

Other related remarks. Professor Merwin asked whether there had been any discussion of why "bracketing" or "banding" had been dropped from the package of tuition changes. There had not been.

Ms. McDonell put forward two questions: What do undergraduates get if graduate tuition is raised, and what is the advantage to undergraduates of having the graduate component in the University? Responses: (a) undergraduate tuition needs not rise as steeply if graduate tuition is increased; (b) the T.A.'s work helps keep undergraduate costs down; (c) undergraduate education is enhanced because faculty are involved in research and scholarship as well as in teaching.

Professor Freier cautioned that undergraduates will now get poorer T.A.'s because the higher graduate tuition is keeping good students away.

B. Budget principles: the guidelines for preparing the 1984-85 budget.

(1) Faculty salaries. Following the Senate schedule, 7% is needed to narrow the purchasing power gap created by inflation and provide a 5% increase over the 1983-85 appropriation. If the legislature appropriates 4.75%, the University would have to come up with 2.25% through retrenchment.

(2) Allocating the indirect research costs recovered. The administration's formula is to return one-third to the units which generated the overhead payments, and retain two-thirds centrally to (a) guard against short-falls and (b) dispense at the discretion of central administration for the

support of research. This may or not remain the formula in future years. SFC opinion is divided on these proportions.

C. Legislative initiatives other than the capital request.

The list is not yet final; among the major items on it are funds for

- (1) The supercomputer;
- (2) Recapturing the normal state contributions to the faculty retirement fund which the state did not make in 1983;
- (3) Civil Service salary adjustments.

The initiatives total approximately \$8 million. To be included, initiatives must be consistent both with the needs of the University and the needs of the state.

5. Reports from the Regents meetings of December 8-9. Observers summarized very briefly.

A. Committee of the Whole, and the Board of Regents. Professor Turner.

B. Budget and Legislative Coordinating Committee. Professor Rubenstein.

(1) Associate Vice President George Robb reported to the Regents on the Legislative requirement, and the University response, to improve English language proficiency of foreign T.A.'s.

(2) Budget principles. Professor Rubenstein commented on the usefulness of the discussion of budget principles ahead of considering the budget figures.

C. Physical Plant and Investments. Professor Stuthman.

(1) Telephone system. The committee approved sending out the telephone system plan for bids. They will make the decision on whether to purchase a system after they see the bids. Choice among the three possible sites (beneath Morrill Hall, Oak and University Avenues--present home of University Police--and Oak and Washington Aves.) will depend on whether the plant combines the telephone center and the computer center.

Professor Howe noted the need for a full discussion on the system purchase with all the proper people involved.

(2) Remodeling costs. The first of a series of reports from Associate Vice President Hewitt exonerates Physical Plant Operations in terms of its procedures.

D. Faculty, Staff and Student Affairs. Professor Mattson. Major items were the Civil Service rule changes and the salary plan with comparability adjustments.

E. Educational Policy and Long Range Planning. Professor Merwin.

(1) CEE constitution. Regents were satisfied with the revised CEE constitution which included more specificity about the service aspect.

(2) Mission and Policy Statement. This generated considerable discussion. There is a division of thought as to whether the Statement should be broad and general or be rather specific and subject to more frequent revision. President Magrath urged the Regents to look at a variety of documents and in the spring return to the Institutional Planning Statement which will come from the President's office, and to the question of the Mission and Policy Statement.

(3) Social Work programs. In response to a letter from one of the student representatives to the Board of Regents alleging no cost savings, administrators spoke to the advantages of the new configuration, now just one-quarter old. They stated that the undergraduate program will provide the necessary background for graduate school.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Poppele, Executive Assistant