



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

University Senate Consultative Committee

1480 Social Sciences
267 19th Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455
Telephone: (612)626-1850

MINUTES

SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
AND
DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT KELLER

December 3, 1987

12:40 - 2:50

Regents Room, Morrill Hall

Members present: Tim Allison, Sonia Arreaza, Joan Bannister, Ellen Berscheid, Charles Betz, Mark Brenner, Charles Campbell, Richard Goldstein, Bill Kukowski, Lynnette Mullins, Kathleen Price, W. Phillips Shively (Chair), Carrie Simenson, Mark Umland, James VanAllstine, Bruce Vandal, Paul Wilson.

Guests: Vice President Stephen Dunham, Gail Grika (Faculty newsletter editor), President Kenneth Keller, Robert Kudrle (AP&A representation subcommittee), Geoffrey Maruyama (Chair, SCFA), Marsha Riebe (assistant to Dr. Keller), Maureen Smith (of University Relations), Barbara Warren (Chair, AP&A Advisory Council), and representation from the Council of Graduate Students: Lynnette Grouse, Michael Kahlow, Peggy LePage, Steven Prince, Andrew Rifkin, and Florence Littman (administrative director).

1. Reports.

A. SSCC Chair. Mr. Vandal summarized the morning's agenda.

B. SCC-FCC Chair. Professor Shively.

(1) The Assembly Steering Committee will meet with the President and Provost at 9:00 a.m. on December 4.

(2) Tuition refund policy. At FCC's instruction the Chair wrote the president asking him to rescind all parts of the policy other than the schedule until consultation occurs and until implementation procedures are designed. Next week a small group will re-examine the policy. We assume the Crookston and Duluth Campuses, where the second quarter has begun, have been advised to use the new schedule.

2. Report of the Subcommittee on Academic Professional and Administrative Class Representation in the Senate and the Campus Assembly. Guests: Professor Robert Kudrle, subcommittee member, and Barbara Warren, AP&A Advisory Council chair.

(The Subcommittee was created last year in response to an AP&A Council request which followed Senate and Assembly action to increase civil service personnel representation on committees.) Members had received in advance the subcommittee's report and recommendations. Professor Ronald Phillips, who chaired the subcommittee, was unfortunately unable to return from out-of-town meetings in time for the presentation and discussion.

Vice President Dunham reported on the Rajender Consent Decree connection. Settlement of the consent decree petition regarding the AP&A class contains a provision concerning participation in the Senate system.

Professor Kudrle reported the subcommittee saw that the Senate could be defined either as a body to set educational policy or as a body in which people who stand to be affected by its decisions should be represented. In fact, governance has given ambiguous signals by going in both directions.

Ms. Warren told the Committee that the largest numbers of AP&A's are in University Extension, Continuing Education and Extension, the Libraries, and the College of Liberal Arts, and are spread among very many job descriptions.

SCC members found that because the report clearly presented information which had previously been obscure, it stimulated new and deeper questions. Members did not feel ready to vote on the recommendations, and they will be discussed further at SCC's January 14 meeting. The major reservations and questions which emerged were as follows:

- The proposed Senate Credentials Committee might be a burdensome device, having an onerous workload to effect perhaps marginal changes. Its work would have to be renewed annually as the nature of appointments changed. Its conclusions on eligibility might be a source of contention.

- There is a current governance interest, particularly among faculty, to restrict the Senate and focus it better. Increasing classes of membership would serve to broaden what the Senate is asked to address. The Faculty Affairs Committee is already required to handle a great range of business. It might therefore be unwise to add Academic Professionals if that would add to the SCFA's range of issues.

- Before adding Academic Professionals to the Consultative, Faculty Affairs, and Equal Employment Opportunity for Women Committees, those committees' constituencies should be consulted to learn if they favor the change. The Consent Decree made faculty women a protected class at the University and at least some members of the class protest any dilution of it. EEOWC and SCFA should take this point into account and re-think their request that women who are Academic Professionals be added to EEOWC.

SCC would support moves to end any abuse of annual appointments for long-term employees. Ms. Warren reported that a requirement now exists to review appointments which have been annual for six years, just as is done for faculty on T-appointments for six years.

Professor Kudrle asked that SCC consider this question: Insofar

as Academic Professionals may participate in the Senate, should the basis for enfranchisement be the function of one's position, or one's term of employment (as at present)?

Despite the diversity of positions in the AP classification, Professor Kudrle believed that the presence of any representatives from the class would make some obvious and useful differences to the work a committee conducts.

Professor Shively invited Ms. Warren to have the AP&A Advisory Council submit comments to the SCC. He encouraged SSCC and FCC to consult with their constituencies prior to the January SCC meeting.

3. Planning recommendations from the Council of Graduate Students (COGS).

Guests: Lynne Grouse, COGS president, and Steve Prince, COGS Executive Committee.

As background, Professor Shively explained that COGS last month had submitted its recommendations (which the COGS General Assembly approved March 4, 1987 and which were then submitted to the Graduate School and the Provost's Advisory Task Force on Planning), to FCC and SSCC/MSA as those groups separately prepared planning resolutions for their respective Assemblies. Because the recommendations were more specific than what FCC was preparing for the Assembly, FCC recommends that, where they are not being addressed by the Graduate School, SCC steer them into the Senate committee structure. Identification of recommendations and SCC's disposition of them follows:

1) Funding original research and travel: COGS should ask Dean Holt to write departments on their allowable latitude on using block grants.

2) Including all unit fellowships in the tuition fellowship plan: Mr. Prince said this will happen.

3) Expanding the definition of full-time graduate student status: Ms. Grouse has been told a mechanism will be ready for Winter Quarter registration.

4) Full health insurance benefits: SCC will forward to Senate Finance Committee. If University creates its own employee health insurance plan, graduate students might want to apportion their benefits to include participation in it.

5) Give graduate assistants limited staff privileges: No discussion.

6) Prohibit awarding appointments at percentages just shy of qualification for benefits. Insofar as possible use standard percentages (25, 50, 75): Request Academic Affairs to provide COGS the resources to collect data in order to see whether there is significant abuse of appointments, particularly as fringe benefits are decentralized.

7) There should be a state scholarship program for outstanding Minnesota residents: Not discussed.

8) Graduate students with primary course teaching responsibilities should be treated as professional staff in salary and benefits: SCC asked if that would not require advertising the position and opening it to public competition. Mr. Prince stated there have been abuses. SCC: As with #6, ask Academic Affairs to provide COGS with the resources to collect information to investigate the extent of any abuses.

9) Graduate School funding for special topics courses designed by graduate students; and

10) Promote good teaching through both training and numerous small awards: Forward #9 and #10 to Dean Robert Holt to say SCC has discussed them briefly and favorably and recommends them to him.

11) Day care provision: Connect COGS with any other University child care committee. (Other parts of #11 not addressed.)

12) Electronic bulletin boards: SCC report this with favorable recommendation to Senate Committee on Research. (Other parts of #12 were not discussed.)

SCC members pointed out that there are wide differences among departments in much of the conduct of the graduate program. Some poor traditions are maintained perennially where people are simply unaware of better options. A good, coordinated exchange of information among departments would be a valuable service. Professor Shively's letter to Dean Holt will encourage him to find effective ways of alerting departments to the positive things that they can do.

DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT KELLER

The chief order of business the Committee was ready to discuss with the President was the Plan for Focus, and that was slated to be the sole topic of a special Twin Cities Campus Assembly Steering Committee meeting with the President and Provost on December 4. A single question emerged for the President in the December 3 SCC meeting; it concerned the nature of COOL (Campus Outreach Opportunity League) and of the University's support for its on-campus office. President Keller explained that the University provided COOL with space on the St. Paul Campus and in Coffman Union when COOL made the request of many universities as it sought to move its home base from Washington, D.C. The organizer's activity seems to consist of encouraging students to seize opportunities to be of service. The University supports the concept behind the various organizations facilitating something like Peace Corps work. Consistent with this, the University pays a fee to be part of "Campus Compact"'s information network.

Mr. Betz, who had raised the question, supported students having an opportunity to minister to the poor but in addition favors providing space for those who want to organize to alter structures which induce poverty.

(This discussion occurred not at the end of the meeting but in a break within the COGS discussions.)

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Poppele
Executive Assistant