

Minutes*

**Faculty Consultative Committee
Thursday, April 24, 2003
12:00 – 2:00
4300D Carlson School**

Present: Dan Feeney (chair), Gary Balas, Susan Brorson, Tom Clayton, Gary Davis, Marti Hope Gonzales, Marc Jenkins, Mary Jo Kane, Marvin Marshak, Judith Martin, Fred Morrison, Jeff Ratliff-Crain, Martin Sampson, Charles Speaks

Absent: Muriel Bebeau, Arthur Erdman, John Fossum, Candace Kruttschnitt

Guests: none

Other: Kate Stuckert (Office of the Vice President and Chief of Staff)

[In these minutes: (1) parking rates; (2) institutional support for athletics; (3) budget matters; (4) congratulations; (5) post-hockey-tournament disturbance]

Professor Feeney convened the meeting at noon. FCC members agreed unanimously that this meeting, without a fixed agenda, would be an open discussion and the minutes would record only the major topics discussed and the actions taken.

1. Parking Rates

Professor Speaks distributed copies of a statement adopted by the Committee on Finance and Planning concerning parking rates. This Committee endorsed it unanimously. Committee members agreed that this is not the time to raise parking rates, no matter how modest the increases, or to increase reserve funds; the symbolism all wrong when there will be no salary increases and likely increased employee contributions to health care costs. Moreover, the Committee agreed that to increase surface lots and the Metropass is likely to have a disproportionate effect on students and employees with lower incomes.

It was agreed that the current and incoming chairs of this Committee and the Committee on Finance and Planning would send a joint letter to Mr. Baker, Director of Parking and Transportation Services, transmitting the statement from the Committee on Finance and Planning.

2. Institutional Support for Athletics

Professor Speaks next reported on the proposal from Vice President Brown on the manner in which the University proposes to reduce its commitment of institutional funds for intercollegiate athletics from \$8.3 million to \$5.7 million over the next five years. The Committee had a discussion of the proposal, and then agreed it should request a meeting with Vice President Brown and Ms. Eull, the chief

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financial officer for intercollegiate athletics, to discuss financial issues associated with intercollegiate athletics.

3. Budget Matters

Professor Morrison reported on the work of the Benefits Advisory Committee and the administrative proposals for increases in employee contributions to health care costs. There was great frustration that these changes would have such a substantial impact in a year that there would be no salary increases.

The budget instructions have been sent out to the deans without any consultation with this Committee or the Committee on Finance and Planning. There was also concern that faculty members have no information about the choices being made to handle the cuts.

4. Congratulations

The Committee gave Professor Jenkins a round of applause for being selected as a recipient of the Award for Outstanding Contributions to Graduate/Professional Education.

The Committee agreed to adopt a statement congratulating the Twin Cities' men's ice hockey team for their national championship and the Duluth women's ice hockey team for their national championship.

5. The Post-Tournament Hockey Disturbance

The Committee agreed to adopt a statement on the "riot" that occurred in Dinkytown and other areas after the men's ice hockey national championship victory on April 12. In addition to condemning what occurred, the focus of the statement will be (1) there needs to be much greater assurance that the lives of faculty, staff, and students are better protected against potential harm or death and that the University's property also needs better protection, and (2) the University needs to take a much more active role in working with and communicating to students the consequences of participation in such events. Committee members expressed concern about the effectiveness of the "student affairs" offices and the University's preparedness. The Committee agreed on the following statement:

The members of the Faculty Consultative Committee share the indignation expressed by our colleagues on the Advisory Committee on Athletics against the outrageous behavior on and off campus following the April 12th NCAA Gopher men's hockey team victory, and we agree with the sentiments and views expressed in the Advisory Committee's statement.

The Faculty Consultative Committee has serious concerns about whether the University is able to prevent or prepare adequately for such disturbances. The Committee wishes to be assured that in the future more effective steps will be taken to protect students, faculty, and staff who may be working in campus buildings from harm or death as a result of arson or other violence, that the life and health of other individuals on or near the campus will not be at risk from such disturbances, and that University property is protected,.

The Committee also hopes that the consequences to students for participating in disturbances such as that of April 12 will be made clear and duly publicized. The administration must take decisive steps to warn students that they will be expelled from the University if convicted of participation in such disturbances. A mass e-mail sent to all students could prevent such disturbances from occurring in the future or greatly reduce participation at the very least.

In accordance with its grave concern over the recent riot, the Committee wishes to meet with Vice President Kathy O'Brien and Vice President Robert Jones to learn how the University intends to prevent the recurrence of such events.

It was agreed the Committee would request a meeting with Vice Presidents Robert Jones (Campus Life) and Kathy O'Brien (University Services).

Professor Feeney adjourned the meeting at 2:00.

-- Gary Engstrand

University of Minnesota