

Minutes*

Faculty Consultative Committee
Thursday, November 18, 1999
1:30 – 2:00
Room 238 Morrill Hall

Present: Fred Morrison (chair), Linda Brady, Susan Brorson, Mary Dempsey, Stephen Gudeman, David Hamilton, Roberta Humphreys, Mary Jo Kane, Leonard Kuhl, Joseph Massey, Marvin Marshak, Judith Martin, V. Rama Murthy, Paula Rabinowitz

Absent: Les Drewes, Richard Goldstein, Jeff Ratliff-Crain

Guests: none

Other: Maureen Smith (Institutional Relations); members of the media

[In these minutes: committee reports]

Professor Morrison convened the meeting at 1:40 and announced, for the information of the media representatives, that this was the Faculty Consultative Committee, and that the Senate Consultative Committee would convene at 2:00 to take up bylaw amendments related to athletics following on the resolution adopted last week. He then asked for reports from committee chairs.

Professor Kuhl reported that the Senate Research Committee (SRC), at its most recent meeting, had spent most of its time on an issue that demonstrated the need rapidly to draft procedures to accompany the Intellectual Property and Principal Investigator Eligibility policies that had been approved by the Regents. In the case of the latter, the fundamental problem that SRC faced was removal of PI status. The policy provides that for regular faculty, PI status is almost a birthright, but that there are circumstances under which it can be removed. The policy provides that it can be removed only with "just cause." He said he has asked those who were involved in drafting the policies to serve on the groups that will draft the procedures.

In other business, SRC has been interested in a forum on the use of animals in scientific research, and Dr. Bloomfield has indicated he will start the process of organizing such a forum to be held in the spring. The committee also considered a draft administrative policy on the establishment of centers and advised Dr. Bloomfield on how the central administration could assist faculty in writing proposals, especially those that involve large interdisciplinary centers.

Professor Martin reported that one of the biggest struggles facing the Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP) is the development of calendars for 2001-2004, and of great interest to many, when spring break will occur. On the latter point, the committee will recommend that spring break occur after the 8th week of classes, so that half-semester courses can be offered.

* These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate or Twin Cities Campus Assembly; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes represent the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate or Assembly, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.

SCEP is also working on a classroom expectations guidelines document and a policy concerning placing class notes on the web. The policy will discourage such a practice; the major issue is permission of the faculty member. Professor Hamilton commented that in the Medical School, students tape and transcribe the lectures, which he declines to edit although there are mistakes in them, but the notes are still published as his--and when students fail, it becomes his fault. At another institution, Professor Morrison reported, these prepared notes are sold by the Medical School dean's office. The issue, Professor Hamilton maintained, is intellectual property.

Professor Hamilton then reported that he had spent part of the morning with the health care task force. He said he believed it is time for the FCC and the AAUP to meet with the task force leadership; the situation has evolved significantly since the task force was appointed and there are important things happening. It was agreed that the Committee should hear from the task force within the next month.

Professor Gudeman next reported that it was urgent that this Committee appoint representatives to the committee that will work on the future of the Campus Club. He and the Committee discussed who should be asked to serve on behalf of FCC. Professor Gudeman then said that the last two sessions of the Committee on Finance and Planning had been very interesting, especially the presentation of comparative data about the University by Dr. Zetterberg. The growing differences between public and private universities is a major issue, he said. He suggested that the University might wish to begin preparing for the next NRC rankings. Professor Humphreys said that the work on the rankings is probably beginning now, and cautioned that at the time of the last rankings, the data from the University--at least in the case of her department--contained a number of errors and omissions. She urged that before the data are submitted, they be checked with the departments. It was agreed that this suggestion should be passed on to the Graduate School, the agency responsible for the collection and reporting of data.

Professor Morrison adjourned the FCC meeting at 1:55 in order that the Senate Consultative Committee/Assembly Steering Committee could turn to the business of the Senate docket and the Assembly bylaws concerning athletics.

-- Gary Engstrand

University of Minnesota