

Minutes

Senate Consultative Committee March 3, 1988

Present: Joan Bannister, Ellen Berscheid, Mark Brenner, Charles Campbell, Shirley Clark, Bill Kukowski, Lynnette Mullins, M. Kathleen Price, Carrie Simenson, W. Phillips Shively (chair), James VanAlstine, Bruce Vandal

Guests: Gayle Grika (Footnote), President Kenneth H. Keller, June Perkins, Maureen Smith (Brief)

1. Discussion with President Keller

President Keller joined the Committee for lunch. The first question raised concerned the impact of decentralization on the coordinate campuses, especially those which wished to retain close ties to the Twin Cities campus. Professor VanAlstine pointed out that Morris, for instance, relies heavily on the computer services and resources of the Twin Cities campus; if decentralization cut off that connection, it would be disastrous for Morris. President Keller said there was no homogeneous answer to the relationship between the coordinate and Twin Cities campus. What must be avoided is unbalanced relationships which consistently work to the disadvantage of the Twin Cities; we cannot have a situation where "what's mine is mine and what's yours is half mine." He also said there was no desire to push the campuses to independence, only that the relationships be fair.

Discussion centered briefly on the use by the libraries of additional money it had received; the Committee agreed that the questions should be referred to the Senate Library Committee. Professors Price and VanAlstine were to take them up with Professor Hart and John Howe, Interim Librarian.

President Keller asked the student members of the Committee to discuss with their colleagues the possibility of surcharges for things entirely devoted to students and which would not otherwise be funded (because of a shortage of money), such as teaching equipment. The surcharge would not be permanent and would have a clearly defined objective. Some of the remarks also turned to the possibility of bonding for equipment, which could take care of immediate needs. The students on the Committee agreed to consider the surcharge proposal.

2. Approval of Minutes

The Committee approved all minutes which had been sent out to date. It also decided that it no longer wished to receive draft copies before the final minutes are circulated.

3. Reports of the Chairs

Mr. Vandal reported that the Student Consultative Committee had considered two issues, the use of support service reserves and the status of the semester system proposal. It was agreed by SCC members that the administration should have a budget for the use of discretionary funds and should consult with the Senate Finance Committee on their use. There should also be oversight of requests to the University Foundation for funds.

Professor Clark reported on items the Senate Finance Committee will be addressing, including

allocations from central reserves and ICR formulae.

Professor Shively reported that he had talked with the Committee on Committees about reducing the number of Senate and Assembly committees to 18. The FCC had also discussed a revision in the membership of the Assembly Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics. They had also been involved in the recent events surrounding the presidency.

4. Membership of Professor White in the Senate

Professor Shively was granted authority to act; before doing so, however, he was asked to find out from Marilee Ward if an alternate had been appointed in Professor White's place. If there turned out to be a problem, the question is to be brought back to SCC.

5. Membership of the Student Senate Chair on SCC

Mr. Vandal proposed that the chair of the Student Senate be an ex officio member if a student is not vice chair of the University Senate, and that the chair of the Faculty Senate be an ex officio member of the SCC if a faculty member is not vice chair of the Senate. That would, he said, make the ratio of students to faculty on SCC balanced. Committee members discussed decision-making on SCC, the need for the change, and the lack of support the faculty had received from students in their request for representation before the Board of Regents. Several faculty members said they saw the addition of another student member to SCC as further eroding the faculty voice in the governance of the University. Mr. Vandal agreed to take the proposal back to MSA to explore other ways to make the student senate chair a member of the Student Senate Consultative Committee.

6. Referral of AIDS Task Force Recommendations

The Committee instructed Professor Shively to refer to various committees of the Senate and Assembly the recommendations from the AIDS Task Force. [The referrals were made within a week after this meeting.] Committee members also noted with some concern the budgetary implications of the recommendations, given that the University budget is largely a zero-sum game. It was agreed that the AIDS Task Force should be seen as a model, in that it contained recommendations and expected costs. Ultimately the recommendations would come before the Senate Finance Committee for review.

7. Referral of "Academic Priorities" Educational Policy issues

The Committee confirmed that the recommendations about grade inflation, length of class period, and the link between class hours and credits awarded should be referred to the Senate Committee on Educational Policy. The Committee is still awaiting the detailed proposal from Academic Affairs for conversion to the semester system.

The Committee adjourned at 3:00.

--Gary Engstrand