



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

All University
Senate Consultative Committee
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MINUTES OF THE SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting of November 9, 1977

The All University Senate Consultative Committee convened its sixth meeting of the 1977-78 academic year on Wednesday, November 9, 1977 in Room 402 of the Minneapolis Campus Club.

Members present included George Blake, Wendell Glick, Robert Holt (ex-officio), Kenneth Keller, Harriet Lewis, Fred Morrison, Richard Purple, Betty Robinett (chairperson), Barbara Stuhler and Mahmood Zaidi. Professor John Brandl was a guest of the committee and visited with it for approximately the first hour and a half of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Professor Robinett.

1. Visit with Professor John Brandl on Legislative Relations

Professor Robinett welcomed Professor Brandl to the meeting and thanked him for taking time to confer with the SCC. (Professor Brandl is currently on the faculty of the School of Public Affairs and a Representative in the State Legislature.) He was present at this meeting in response to both an interest on his part in facilitating University/Legislature relations, and to an invitation from SCC which was extended to him as a result of a report given by Professor Zaidi at the SCC October 27, 1977 meeting. (Reference October 27, 1977 SCC Minutes.)

The Consultative Committee was interested in hearing from Professor Brandl on how best to initiate and maintain meaningful contacts with members of the Legislature for the purpose of keeping these individuals informed about activities at the University. Professor Brandl warned that SCC members should not try to "educate" members of the Legislature, but should rather "inform" them of faculty research endeavors, for example, to avoid being perceived as being patronizing. Professor Zaidi felt that any efforts to contact legislators should start now, rather than later, when such moves on the part of faculty might be misconstrued as self-serving (at a time when the Legislature begins consideration of the next biennial budget request).

Professor Brandl suggested that a long-range plan for extended efforts by faculty to develop an understanding on the part of legislators of what the University is trying to do in the area of research, for example, would be more effective than a short-range, intensive effort. He indicated that since the Legislature is now in session, this would be a good time to start contacting legislators to set up dinner meetings or other informal sessions with the SCC.

Professor Purple asked if legislative staff personnel should be included in such gatherings; Professor Brandl responded in the affirmative. It is his perception that often the staff people make substantial, if unseen, contributions to new legislation and would most likely welcome an opportunity to learn more about the University in relation to activities that come under the purview of

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the State Legislature. He added that meetings with staff personnel should be held in conjunction with meetings the SCC schedules with legislators; they should not be invited alone.

A discussion followed concerning which legislators would be the most receptive to an invitation from the Consultative Committee to meet and discuss matters of mutual concern. It was decided that Representative Faricy would be one of the first persons to be contacted because of his expressed interest in the University. Professor Brandl volunteered to act as liaison between the Consultative Committee and individual legislators to facilitate the arrangement of meetings.

Professor Robinett and other members of the committee thanked Professor Brandl for providing some valuable insights into the most expeditious ways to approach the Legislature, and expressed hope that it would be possible for him to meet again with the SCC. (Professor Brandl left the meeting at 3:45 p.m.)

2. Student Access Report

Ms. Lewis mentioned to the committee that SCRAP members had received a copy of the newly published report on student access and asked if copies could be obtained for SCC members; Professor Robinett said this would be done.

3. Facilitative Committee Meeting

Professor Robinett distributed a copy of the call to the November 16 meeting of the Facilitative Committee and asked for possible discussion topics. There were no suggestions to add to those mentioned at the October 27 Consultative Committee meeting. (Reference October 27, 1977 SCC Minutes.)

4. Agenda Items for December Meeting with the Regents

Professor Robinett confirmed that the meeting previously scheduled for this evening (November 9) had been postponed until December 8. The faculty members of SCC were asked to plan on convening at 4:30 p.m. in the Campus Club for a brief meeting prior to the 5:30 dinner meeting with the Regents.

Professors Keller and Stuhler informed Professor Robinett that they would not be able to attend the meeting because of prior commitments.

Professor Robinett reported to the committee that Duane Wilson, Secretary to the Regents, had told her that the Regents would be interested in ascertaining the faculty "climate" on salaries. He said a recent ranking of the Big Ten Universities shows the University of Minnesota in third place, with a tendency for salaries to be more attractive at the lower ranks. Faculty members were asked to be prepared to discuss this topic with the Regents on December 8.

5. Student Legal Service Board of Directors

Professor Robinett reported to the committee that Professor Thomas Clayton will not be able to serve on the Board of Directors of the Student Legal Service because of other pressing commitments. She asked for nominations for alternate: Professor Keller suggested Professor Arnold Ismach from the _____ of Journalism, and Professor George Donahue was also proposed.

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* A motion was passed to authorize the SCC Chairperson, Professor Robinett, MOTION to proceed with the selection of an alternate to the SLS Board of Directors PASSED and to make the final decision without further discussion with the full committee.

6. All-University Senate Agenda Items Presented for Approval

Marilee Ward, Clerk of the Senate, had forwarded to Professor Robinett two questions directed to the President for inclusion on the November 17, 1977 Senate docket. (The Consultative Committee, as part of its Steering Committee responsibilities, must approve such questions.)

The first item was from Professor Donald Kahn concerning expansion of administrative staff during a period of faculty retrenchment. It was agreed that this item could be included on the docket as written.

The second item was from Professor Albert Frenkel concerning participation of students on search committees for major administrative positions within colleges. There was some mention in his letter of a possible revision of Senate regulations for University-wide search committee guidelines and/or of individual college constitutions. Since the letter concerned Senate regulations but was a question

* directed to the President, it was decided that Professor Robinett should contact Professor Frenkel by telephone to suggest three alternatives to placing this letter on the docket: 1) ask him to address the letter to the Consultative Committee for consideration at one of its regular meetings; 2) ask him to rewrite the letter so it is phrased in such a way that the President can respond to the inquiry directly; or, 3) ask him if he wants to have the item presented on the Senate docket worded the way it is presently and, if so, inform him that it will be placed under New Business and probably referred to the Consultative Committee for action at a later date.

7. Adams' Report to the Planning Council

Professor Zaidi discussed in more detail the document prepared by the Adams' subcommittee of the Planning Council which deals, in large part, with overlap among the University's administrative offices and Senate committees as it relates to planning. (Copies will be distributed to SCC members in the next few days by the SCC secretary.) This report had been the subject of a brief discussion at the October 6 SCC meeting. (Reference October 6, 1977 SCC Minutes.) Professor Zaidi summarized the recommendations as follows: 1) It would be helpful if the President would indicate the committees he will consult with on particular subjects to clarify the role of the different groups in the interaction with the President (Professor Zaidi also said that SCC should be informed of the President's recommendations in this regard in order to facilitate referral of Senate business); 2) Reorganization of some areas of the Morrill Hall administrative offices seemed advisable as a step toward improving planning at the University; 3) The Vice Presidents should confer with each other more often and should place a member of their respective staffs in a planning role within that particular administrative unit to act as a planning liaison with the other Vice Presidential offices.

Harriet Lewis related her conversation with Vice President Kegler concerning student representation on the Planning Council. She felt that since a faculty representative from the Consultative Committee attends meetings of the Planning Council, a student representative should also attend. He agreed and she has been designated as the student representative.

8. Vice President for Administrative Operations

* There was a brief report from Professor Robinett on the status of the search for the new Vice President for Administrative Operations. The President plans to announce his choice for this position at the December 8 meeting of the Regents.

* Professor Robinett reported that because of the issues raised over the past few weeks by the Daily and others, President Magrath will present a statement to the Regents at their November 10 morning meeting which he hopes will clarify his position on the major issues surrounding the search procedures. (Reference October 27, 1977 SCC Minutes.)

* Because she will be out of town, Professor Robinett asked members of the SCC who could attend that session of the Regents meeting on November 10. Harriet Lewis volunteered to go.

9. Student Chairperson Participation in Informal Meetings...

Student Chairperson Harriet Lewis raised the question of student representation at informal meetings which Professor Robinett has requested with the President, attended only by Professor Robinett (SCC Chairperson) and Professor Zaidi (SCC Associate Chairperson). Ms. Lewis said that she and the other student representatives on the committee would like the Student Chairperson to be invited to participate in these meetings, and she asked that in the future the Student Chairperson be notified of such meetings.

She said that her objection was not to Professor Robinett meeting as an individual with the President or as the sole representative from SCC, nor was her objection to the presence of Professor Zaidi at these meetings, but was rather an objection to the absence of a student representative. She agreed that Professor Robinett should feel free to meet with the President, but Ms. Lewis felt strongly that if more than one person from the Consultative Committee were to be needed at such meetings, the Student Chairperson should definitely be included.

* After a brief period of conversation among committee members concerning the appropriateness of such meetings, the degree of informality/formality which would be desirable, and the nature of the topics discussed at this type of conference with the President, the request of the Student Chairperson was endorsed by the committee members present.

10. Allocation of Equity Funds to Coordinate Campuses

Professor Holt asked for any new information on the question of distribution of equity funds to coordinate campuses. Professor Keller reminded the committee that President Magrath had said he would discuss this issue with the SCC, but thus far this year no discussion has taken place. Professor Holt commented that he was primarily concerned about the criteria that might be used to make decisions relevant to this issue. He also remarked that he hoped the SCC would have a chance to discuss this item with the President before, not after, the decisions were made.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Senate Consultative Committee will be held on Thursday, December 1, at 12:30 p.m. in the Dale Shephard Room of the Campus Club.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda L. Compton, Administrative Fellow
Senate Consultative Committee