

Minutes\*

**Faculty Consultative Committee**  
**Thursday, August 15, 1996**  
**1:00 - 4:00**  
**Room 238 Morrill Hall**

Present: Virginia Gray (chair), Carl Adams, Carole Bland, Victor Bloomfield, Roberta Humphreys, Laura Coffin Koch, Harvey Peterson, Michael Steffes

Guests: Professor Charles Speaks (representing the Finance and Planning Committee); Associate Vice President Robert Kvavik, Senior Vice President Marvin Marshak, Associate Vice President Richard Pfitzenreuter

Others: Martha Kvanbeck (University Senate), Maureen Smith (University Relations)

[In these minutes: the tenure debate; frequent flier miles; charges for modems]

**1. Executive Session**

Professor Gray convened the meeting at 1:00, explained there would be personnel matters discussed, and asked for a motion to close the meeting. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted to close the meeting.

During the closed session, the Committee discussed the anonymous memorandum (the "cockroach manifesto") proposing tenure code amendments, the upcoming Regents' retreat and possible regental action with respect to the tenure code, and other issues related to tenure. Professor Gray noted that she, Professor Fogelman, and Professor Morrison would be attending the retreat for the tenure discussion.

**2. Other Committee Business**

Professor Gray then noted several documents that had been distributed.

- Appointment of a focus group of faculty to discuss the human resources system.
- The "frequent flyer" memo from the Board of Regents. There will be a new memo coming out, which will restate the policy accurately and which will be more palatable to the faculty. Events seem to be moving in the right direction on this issue, so it does not seem to require attention right now. It may be that faculty will be asked to keep track of trips, depending on whether they are on state money or not. This raises a variety of question: of how one splits the tickets, how the miles will be banked, how transfers would be made, how to account for multiple sources of funding, what will be done when personal funds pay for part of a trip, and so on.

---

\*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.

Professor Humphreys argued that for faculty who use the frequent flyer miles to attend other professional meetings, it would be unfair for the miles to be placed in some central pool.

The possibility of obtaining duplicate numbers, in order to track University and non-University-funded mileage separately, has been closed; the airline(s) will no longer permit it.

- Professor Gray drew the attention of Committee members to a letter from the Senate Committee on Computing and Information Systems to the President about charging faculty for modems. Senior Vice President Marshak has assured her, she reported, that this change will not happen by the fall of 1996, so the Committee need not immediately attend to this. She is, however, looking into it. She said she assumes that faculty do not wish to begin paying \$4 per month for a service that some may not use.

The \$4 per month is trivial compared to the long-distance telephone charges that some faculty must accrue simply for access to email, Professor Peterson pointed out. Professor Koch agreed, and noted that now faculty would not only be paying the long-distance charges, but an additional \$4 per month as well--in order to do their work.

The larger question is what services should be provided for faculty, Professor Bland said. One would like to have the garbage emptied; modem access is another service faculty should have. There are basic things that are needed; faculty are being nibbled at, and it is driving them crazy.

-- Gary Engstrand