

Minutes*

Faculty Consultative Committee
Thursday, October 10, 1996
1:30 - 3:00
Room 140 Nolte Center

Present: Virginia Gray (chair), Carl Adams, Carole Bland, Victor Bloomfield, W. Andrew Collins, Sara Evans, Dan Feeney, Russell Hobbie, Laura Coffin Koch, Michael Korth, Fred Morrison, Harvey Peterson, Michael Steffes, Matthew Tirrell

Regrets: Gary Davis, Craig Swan

Guests: Professors Mary Dempsey and Edwin Fogelman

Others: Martha Kvanbeck (University Senate)

1. Publicity

Professor Gray convened the meeting at 1:30 and announced that the Senate Consultative Committee, scheduled for 3:00 - 4:30, would have to be adjourned at 4:00 because FCC would be having a press conference about the new tenure proposal from the Regents.

She then reported she had met with Vice President Tom Swain, since the meeting at which he spoke with FCC, and talked about the Committee's concerns about the lack of positive stories about the University. It turns out that most stories are positive; it is the op-ed pieces that often may not be. She said she was reassured, in talking with Mr. Swain, because it turns out that University Relations is doing a great deal about this. They do find out about faculty publishing, for example, and do tip sheets for the media, so the information does get out. They are making efforts constantly to reach department heads and chairs in order to talk to new people in the departments.

University Relations also does regular surveys of what the public thinks of the University in terms of teaching, research, and service; 75% of the public sees the University as a teaching institution. It does not do a great deal of good to emphasize research; people must be moved along in their understanding of what the University is.

Professor Bland suggested there be a standing faculty committee to work with University Relations; Professor Gray agreed that this suggestion should be considered.

2. Tenure

The Committee voted unanimously to go into closed session to discuss the most recent tenure proposal from the Regents. Professor Morrison reported on the hearings at the Bureau of Mediation

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Services and also provided an analysis of the regental tenure proposal.

Following this discussion, Professor Gray adjourned the meeting at 3:00 in order to convene the Senate Consultative Committee.

-- Gary Engstrand

University of Minnesota